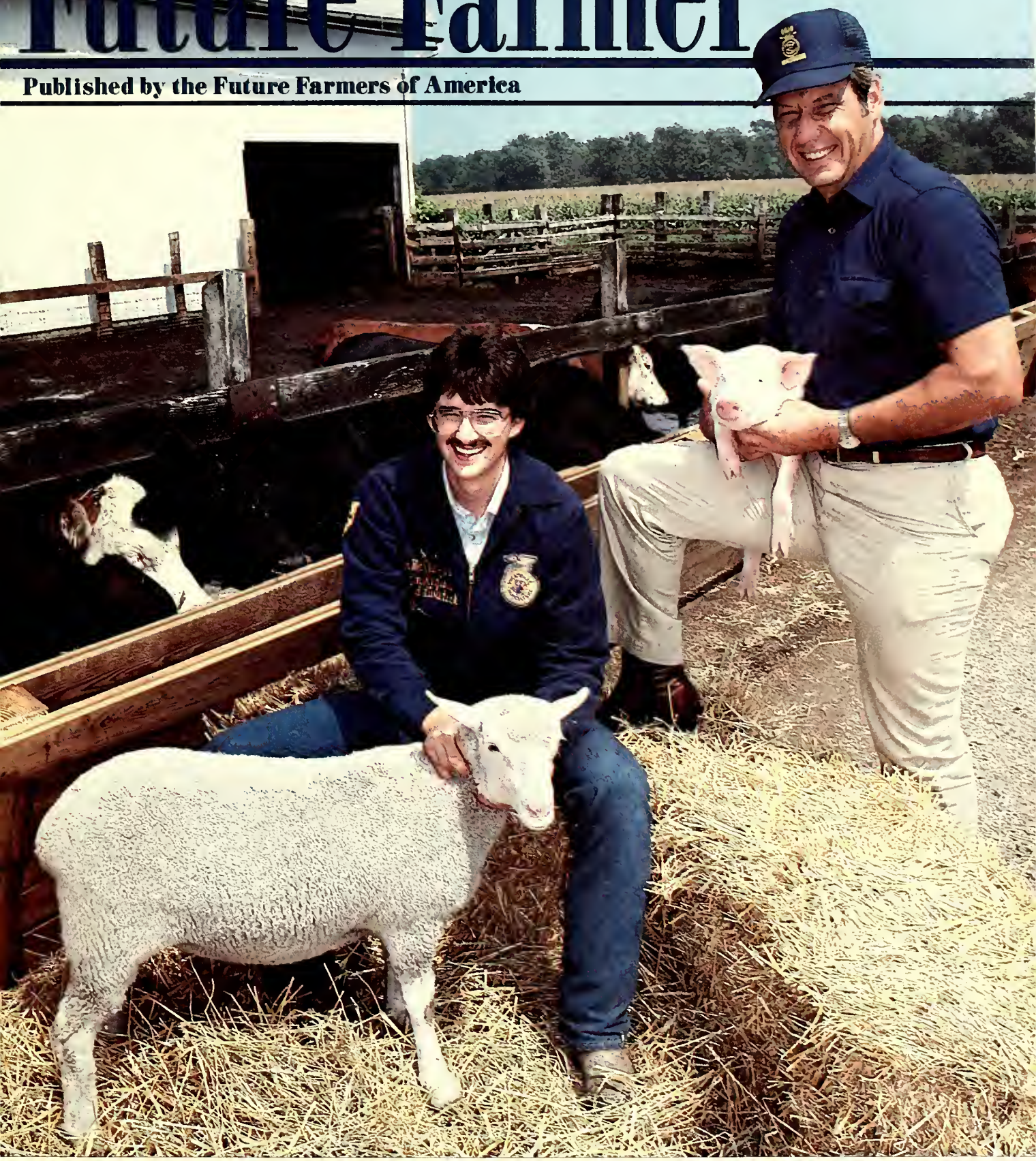
The National
Future Farmer
October–November, 1985
Published by the Future Farmers of America



Inside This Issue: Stars Over America 1985
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The National
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Published by the Future Farmers of America

October-November, 1985
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A Word With The Editor

"Agriculture is a way of life in America, and a state of mind: 'Scratch an American and you find a farmer.' Stories of life on the farm are part of America's folklore, both clouding and informing our view of the farm and its place in American society.

Just how important is that place today? Should we keep treating the farm as one of our culture's hallowed institutions? Should we try to shore up agriculture against the forces of change?

These are questions that come up every four years when we work out a contract with our farmers. It's called the 'Farm Bill,' it has been going on for decades, and it's one of the highest-stake debates in Washington."

The above statement by the publisher describes the setting for a new book, *A Tough Row to Hoe, The 1985 Farm Bill and Beyond*. It is a book every serious student of agricultural policy will want to read.

A Tough Row to Hoe surveys the history of past agricultural policies, the sources of current agricultural crisis, and suggest goals for the future. It analyzes three key issues that shape the environment for agriculture — macroeconomic policy, tax policy, and farm credit. It offers a detailed examination of four basic approaches to farm policy, as well as realistic projections of the probable effects of each option of different goals, groups, and interests. It concludes with an explanation of the issues around which the agricultural policy debate is likely to center for the remainder of the century. Overall, it provides an indispensable framework for understanding the bargain between agriculture and the rest of American society.

The book is available from Hamilton Press, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, MD 20706. Paperback is $9.95, Cloth $19.95, plus $1.25 for postage and handling.

Wilson Carnes

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Brian McClarren, of Delta, Ohio, with advisor Jim Speiss and part of his winning diversified livestock program. See page 14 for Brian's story.

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The FFA News in Brief

National FFA Board Meets

The National FFA Board of Directors completed their summer meeting at the FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia, July 14-18. The board tackled a wide range of issues that included action in the following areas:

- Adoption of a strategic plan to guide the national organization over the course of the next five years;
- Approval of a new National Agricultural Education Computer Service to provide information, reviews, and software to vocational agriculture programs;
- Adoption of a balanced budget for fiscal year 1985-86;
- Approval to recommend a dues increase of 50 cents to the 1985 National FFA Convention delegates;
- Approval of 644 American Farmer Degree candidates;
- Initiation of a constitutional amendment to allow states that use their quota of American Farmer candidates to submit an additional five candidates to make up for quotas not filled by other states; and
- Presentation to the board of a check for $10,000 by the National FFA Alumni as further repayment of their original line of credit.

Agriculture Teacher Joins FFA Board

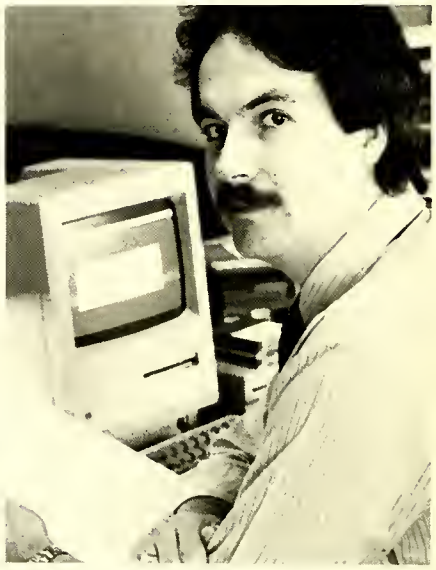
Jerry Paxton of Encampment, Wyoming, became the first high school vo-ag teacher to serve on the FFA Board of Directors. Paxton was named to represent the U.S. Department of Education for a two-year term.

New Foundation Sponsors

The National FFA Foundation welcomes 18 new sponsors to its rolls: American Scotch Highland Breeder's Association; Bozell and Jacobs; Chevrolet Motor Division - Trucks/GMC; Continental Insurance Company; Cotter and Company; Dorn Public Relations; Edward D. Jones & Company; Gehl Foundation, Incorporated; George A. Hormel and Company; H.J. Heinz Company Foundation; Hardee's Food Systems, Inc.; Helena Chemical Company; Holly Farms; Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Inc.; Northrup King; Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation; Shakespeare Company; and The James G. Boswell Foundation.

Bill Stagg Joins The National FUTURE FARMER Staff

Bill Stagg, FFA's Audio-Visual Specialist for the past five years, has assumed duties as Associate Editor for *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. Stagg's responsibilities will be split between magazine and audio-visual production.



A communications graduate of Virginia Tech, Stagg first came to work for the FFA in 1978. He has produced such shows as "Stars Over America" and "Be All You Can Dream," and has staged the audio-visuals for the past five national conventions.

Strategic Plan Developed for FFA

National Advisor Larry D. Case presented the FFA's first Strategic Plan for the national organization to the board of directors at their July meeting. Covering a period of five years, the plan includes a mission statement, purposes and objectives for the national FFA.

Having received input and approval from the board, the national staff will now develop specific action steps for implementation of the objectives.

Former FFA Member to Work for Exports

Richard E. Bell, president of Riceland Foods, Inc. and a former FFA member, has been named by Secretary of Agriculture John Block to serve on the proposed advisory committee for USDA's new export enhancement program.

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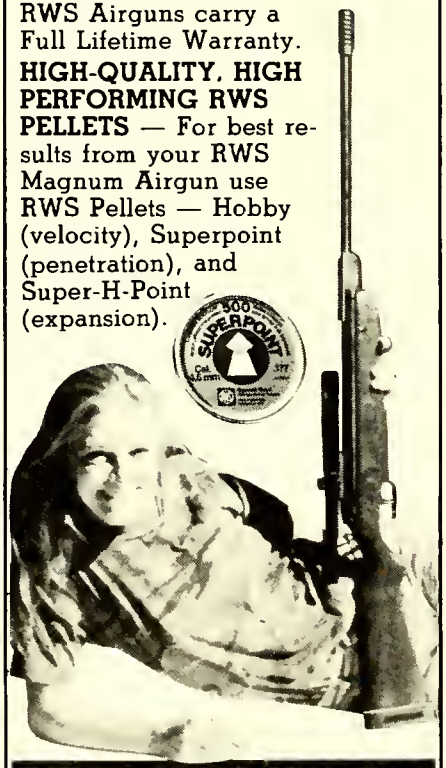

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The Mailbag

FFA Helping People

I'm writing to you as a grateful FFA member. I entered the vo-ag program as a ninth grader at Gervais Union High School, Oregon. I was very active and became very close to all the members.

In December of my sophomore year my family had to move to Palmdale, California. To my surprise, my ag teacher in Oregon called the Palmdale teacher and told him I was coming.

The president of the FFA offered to help me get used to the new school and helped me meet fellow FFA members. It has now been seven months and I feel good about being here and I'm grateful to all of them for helping me.

Dawn Touchstone
Pearblossom, California

In 1982-84 I lived in Humble, Texas. During my junior year I was in FFA where I learned a lot of things especially about myself. I raised a pig and my instructor really taught me a lot about life. When I attend college this fall my major will be agriculture business. I want to thank FFA because it helped me very much.

Shawn Wood
Edmond, Oklahoma

New Member

I have received the magazine for four months now and have enjoyed each issue. Thank you.

Jason Hidge
Shelbyville, Texas

Open Doors

I have read the letters in the "Mailbag" section of the magazine. It seems that most of the letters of support are not from FFA members, but from adults. The FFA'ers write to the magazine asking for more coverage of this or that, or telling of how much they enjoy the Joke Page.

To me, this is not what FFA is about. FFA has opened many doors for me. Through these doors I have met new friends and gained worthwhile experiences.

When an FFA team places in a contest, the school usually receives the credit. The credit goes to the FFA members and their advisor who are really the ones that make the effort and achievement. Vo-ag not only teaches vocational skills, but also responsibility.

Cheri Jay
Liberty Hill, Texas

Satisfied Customer

I like the *FUTURE FARMER*. I enjoy reading what other chapters are doing to make money. Your advertisers are honest. I have been very pleased with merchandise I've ordered recently.

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

Takes Exception

I am coming upon my senior year in high school and have noticed that all your featured articles in *The National FUTURE FARMER* are really great with the exception that most people in FFA don't have their parents' land to keep their stock on. All these stories are good but I know of few people in California that have their parents showing them how not to make the mistakes they made. I think these stories would be more beneficial.

Laura Conners
Pleasanton, California

Eagles Soar

I just started receiving the great magazine and I'd like to let you know that I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I'm looking forward to future issues. Specifically, I congratulate you for the article "Eagles Soar, Turkeys Fly, We're Hiring Eagles." The tips given, if taken seriously, can plunge some FFA members into great careers. Finally, I'd like to let you know that even though there aren't many farms in the Los Angeles area, there are many excited FFA members.

Jaime Calderon
Van Nuys, California

Youth Power

We're not advisors, not staff, not parents of current FFA members; we are Life FFA Alumni members. It was our privilege and immense pleasure to escort four young people from the Lakeland R-III, Missouri, FFA Chapter to the July 15-20 sessions of the Washington Conference Program. Our group, which consisted of Lakeland officers, flew from Kansas City to our nation's capital.

The flight was a first for the majority of us, but it actually started a challenging, fun-filled week of work for our young people. Apparently much introspection took place that week, plus inspiration at several points during those four days. It was a demanding week physically and mentally, but, oh, so stimulating! Each of our four agreed that the only way to make it better would be to make it longer. The experiences, friendships and acquaintances from so many states left a poignant quality in the air as we prepared to leave.

One unexpected thrill was seeing two of our students receive national FFA Alumni WCP scholarships. Our local alumni chapter had donated $100 to each of our four members to help them with their WCP expenses—that's teamwork.

Thanks for providing such power-packed opportunities for our youth!

Barbara and Irvin Haverland
Lowry City, Missouri

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Trends in Agriculture

Looking Ahead

The New Ag Professionals

A national shift toward a non-traditional student is being hailed by major agricultural universities. Penn State reports that 40 percent of all those majoring in agriculture are women, studying everything from agronomy to wildlife science. In addition, the new ag professionals no longer come predominantly from rural roots. Currently, 80 percent of all ag undergrads at Penn State are from suburban or urban environments.

Africanized Honeybees Advance on U.S.

Full-scale migration to this country of an "Africanized" strain of honeybees developed in South America is expected by 1988, according to USDA estimates, and will pose a threat to the $130 million U.S. honeybee industry. The aggressive strain tends to take over hives of domestic varieties, reducing honey production and posing difficulties for beekeepers handling Africanized colonies. Some bees have already "hitchhiked" their way to several locations in California.

U.S., Soviets to Cooperate

The U.S. Feed Grains Council and the Soviet Union will cooperate on several projects that include exchanging technology on feed manufacturing and computer use. The projects are designed to increase U.S. feed grains sales to the USSR by helping improve Soviet feed efficiency. The effort will also help improve Soviet on-farm storage and processing of feed, and work to improve livestock and poultry production efficiency through computer management systems.

China Becomes Food Exporter

China is making a dramatic switch from being an importer of corn, cotton and soybeans to being an exporter in competition with U.S. farmers, according to a USDA report. Chinese imports of American wheat have also dropped sharply as a result of recent record crop harvests in China. Their emergence as an agricultural exporter will mean increased competition for the United States in Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea.

Reducing Hay Weathering Losses

Texas Ag Extension Service researchers recently conducted tests to determine the optimum methods for preventing losses due to weathering when storing hay. Sorghum sudangrass hay was stored using a variety of indoor and outdoor methods. The largest losses were found in bales stored directly on the ground because the hay acted as a wick, soaking up moisture from the ground. To mimimize losses outside, recommendations were made to: store hay in a well-drained site and off the ground; store to allow air movement around bales; align rows with flat areas facing north and south for rapid drying after rain; and avoid storing all hay in one place to decrease fire risks.

Farmland Values Drop

Average farmland values dropped 12 percent from April, 1984 to April, 1985 according to USDA figures. The decline was widespread, affecting all the contiguous states except New England, New Jersey, and Texas. Losses were largest in the Corn Belt, Lake States, and Northern Plains.

Too often a hunting cartridge is picked on the basis of ballistic charts alone. But, to serious big game hunters, bullet performance is the first thing to consider.

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Farmers Experiment with Biogas

Farmers are generating energy from manure using a system called anaerobic digestion. The gas produced is a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide, or biogas. It is being used primarily for space heating, drying, cooking, water heating and powering electric generators. Most of the work being done with biogas is still experimental and is aimed at making the procedure more cost-effective.

A brochure, "On-Farm Biogas Production," can be obtained from the Univ. of Ill., Ag Engineering Dept., 1304 W. Penn. Ave., Urbana, IL 61801.

Best Markets for U.S. Ag Exports

The leading market for American farm exports is no longer Western Europe, according to USDA figures. In 1984, the U.S. shipped $10.6 billion worth of agricultural shipments to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Exports to East Asia exceeded those to Western Europe for the first time, primarily a result of declining U.S. sales to European markets.

Gasahol Tractors

The state of Illinois will purchase eight new Ford tractors powered 100 percent by ethanol, a fuel derived from corn alcohol. The mass-produced tractors will be used on an experimental basis in maintenance of the state's highways and roads.

Measuring Farm Financial Stress

About 13 percent of farmers responding to a Department of Agriculture survey reported financial stress due to a combination of a high debt load and an inability to generate enough cash to pay their bills. However, more than four-fifths of U.S. farms were found to be in relatively sound financial condition.

The debt/asset ratio used in the survey compares the amount owed to creditors with the value of farm assets. When the debt/asset ratio rises to 40 percent, the farm is considered to be in a dangerous financial position.

A farm's cash flow is the ability to generate income to meet production expenses, repay debts and provide for family living expenses.

Plants Fight Crop Damage from Air Pollution

Air pollution can reduce crop yields in many parts of the world by as much as 20 percent. Recently, Israeli researchers have found at least 20 different species of plants effective in detecting and measuring chemical pollutants in the air. Alfalfa is sensitive to sulfur dioxide, while pinto beans, eggplant and tobacco can monitor ozone and nitrates. These and other plants provide farmers with inexpensive alternatives to costly pollution monitoring equipment.

Farmers' Markets Satisfy Consumers

Consumers in North Carolina who buy from farmers' markets say they do so because they get fresher, better tasting products, usually at lower prices than elsewhere. Other factors mentioned in a survey conducted by North Carolina State's Agricultural Research Service included the availability of bulk quantities for home processing, the social-recreational aspects of visiting the market, and the desire to support local growers.

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DUPONT

FFA's gold medal livestock judges say "decision making" is the key to success.

By Glen Richardson

National judging contests have been an important part of the vo-ag program since the 1920s. Current judging teams are skillful and well trained.

Tips from the Masters

You win some, you lose some.

In livestock judging the difference between the two is making correct decisions quickly.

It is the kind of rapid-fire decisions that seem to violate the natural order: it's farming's equivalent to the sun rising in the West. Knowledge alone is no longer dominant; everyone has an even break, but luck and hunches are often the winning difference.

Training techniques are available in a dizzying array; so is instructor advice. Yet when the competition begins each contestant must rely totally on their own knowledge, experience and instincts.

"Will wonders never cease? I never thought we could do it," admits one of the gold emblem FFA teams from last year's National FFA Livestock Judging Contest. "It's great to win. We were thrilled," says the team who scored highest among the 45 competing at the 1984 contest. "But we didn't think we would win. You never want to think you're going to win," they claim.

Improving an individual's decision making ability is one of the major benefits from a strong judging experience.

The surprising feature of what may appear to be a mundane event to vo-ag and FFA students who have never tried for a judging title "is the competition with yourself," say winners at last November's contest in Kansas City in conjunction with the National FFA Convention.

"I'm glad we won. We proved something. But we learned more about people and life than livestock. That's a tougher lesson, but one we'll remember forever," add members of another gold emblem team.

Their reaction reveals another facet of the keen competition: FFA members going for the Gold—whether it is in livestock judging or in life—are forever haunted by the uncertainty of their decisions.

"Did I make the right choice?"

Making Right Choices

According to coaches of last year's winning teams, however, it is this very "decision making process" that makes livestock and other FFA judging contests valuable learning experiences. "It may be grading feeder cattle or selecting the best hog, but ultimately, it's teaching young men and women that they can make a decision and have confidence in that decision," they say.

"Even winners don't agree 100% of the time with judges. Who's right, the student or the official? It's a judgment call," they explain. "Decisions are not always easy or popular whether in school, business, on the farm or in a livestock judging ring. Those are important lessons livestock judging events teach you," they stress.

Livestock Judging Overview

Local and state FFA livestock judging contests are similar if not patterned after the national competition. So if you're considering trying out for your chapter team, here's an idea of what you'll face if you are lucky enough to make it to Kansas City.

Eleven classes of livestock are available for judging and evaluation at the site of the American Royal Livestock & Horse Show and at the Kansas City Stockyards Company. Team members observe animals from all angles for 15 minutes. Finally, they are given two minutes to give their placement reasons orally.

Classes in beef cattle, hogs and sheep are judged. Additionally, contestants are required to quality grade 10 head each of market swine, slaughter cattle and feeder cattle.

FFA contestants also must prove their selection ability of breeding livestock by selecting four animals each, based on production records, out of eight beef females and swine females respectively.

Each team in the contest has competed with other chapters in its state for the

(Continued on Page 12)

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Judging Tips

(Continued from Page 10)

privilege of competing in the national contest.

As sponsor of the National FFA Livestock Judging Contest, Ralston Purina Company provides funds to help pay travel expenses of winning state teams to Kansas City. Purina also provides plaques and trophies for winning teams and medals for high scoring individuals.

Placing first at last year's National FFA Livestock Judging Contest was the team from Estancia, New Mexico, composed of David Larson, Warren Metzger and Johnny Perea and coached by George Martin. All three were also gold medal individuals with Perea and Metzger placing second and third as individuals.

Steve Simmons, Clovis, California, whose team placed eighth, was high individual in the contest. Shannon Holohan, Moberly, Missouri, and Cindy Blakley, Hannessey, Oklahoma, rounded out the top five individuals.

Ann Krones, Mike Miller and Carl Hornstein, all of Chatsworth, Illinois, made up the second-place team. They were followed by teams from Missouri, Minnesota and Oklahoma. A total of 11 state teams qualified for the gold emblem.

Eight of the 11 gold emblem teams were co-ed. New Mexico's winning team was represented by the sophomore, junior and senior classes. Moreover, fully a third of the winners said they did not come from livestock backgrounds.

Winning Traits

From what these winning young livestock judges told us about themselves and how they won, *The National FUTURE FARMER* identified these traits as common among them all:

- The desire to know livestock. For all of the winners, livestock judging became a living task, rather than a means of attempting to place animals in the order in which they expected the judge to place them.
- Keen power of observation. This keen observation power seems to be the result of intense application of thought to the understanding of good and bad points of an animal.
- Ability to make a logical analysis. To make a logical analysis, winners cast aside all prejudiced ideas about the livestock, and approached each class in an honest and open-minded manner.
- Independence of thought. Winners said they were honest with themselves and relied on their own independent placing decisions.
- The ability to give effective reasons. Natural talent always helps, but most winners say they improved primarily on acquired knowledge and practice.

Desire, Hard Work

Dedication, desire and hard work were factors echoed by all the winning team and their coaches. Most, surprisingly shunned slides and videotapes as training techniques. Using live animals in as many practice sessions as possible was the training rule for all of the winning teams and individuals.

Concentration and solid thinking skills are honed in the judging process.

Several teams, however, used tape recorders and video cameras to improve oral reasons. All agreed that oral reasons was the most difficult part of the contest, with grading a close second.

None could provide special hints on how to grade. "It's hard, really hard. Even professional judges have been known to pick winners that won't grade," pointed out one contestant.

"A good coach, that's one factor that makes for winning livestock teams and individuals." suggested one winner. Many others echoed that feeling.

New Mexico's George Martin—who also coached the top FFA livestock team in 1978 and has also won at Denver's National Western Stock Show—says he looks for team members who "see the animals and know what they are talking about." As for coaching styles, he says "I don't dictate what they are to do in each contest. I want them to learn to think for themselves."

Can you qualify for your chapter's livestock team? You win some and you lose some. But you just might make the team.

Should you try?

You be the judge! ●●●

Judging teams must prepare for the variety of livestock judged in a contest besides oral reasons. It takes hours of dedicated preparation to do a good job.

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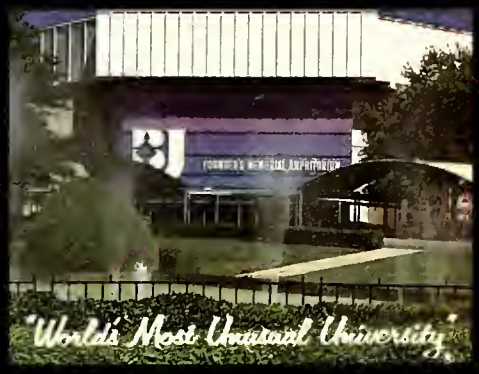

Stands without apology for the "old-time religion" and the absolute authority of the Bible.

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Brian's

By Bill Stagg

Mom: "About the time he was in second grade, his cousin Judd had a little runt pig and he brought it down and he said, 'Brian, I'm going to give you this pig, but you're going to feed it. If I hear of Mom feeding it or Dad feeding it, I'm going to come down and get it'. And Brian put four gates in the garage and that was his pig. He fed it and he got some money for that pig. I said, 'what are you going to do with your money?' He said, 'I'm going to buy pigs!, and he fed those out and he made some more money and then he bought four pigs. When he fed those out he felt his pen was a little small and he decided he was going to buy a sow . . ."

Dad: "It definitely started way before his freshman year."

BRIAN McClarren is a young man who is driven. Driven by an essential curiosity to understand why something works and by an intense desire to make it work better. He's pretty good at it, too.

Brian McClarren is a *goal setter.*

He's always been one who has set his goals high," says his mother. Teachers have said all the way through school that he sets his goals almost unreachable.

Almost, but not quite. A winning

Above, Brian McClarren, 20, of Delta, Ohio, with father Ben. Below left, tending manure separator Brian helped design and build. Below center, checking litter of pigs. Below right, Brian straps a breeding marker on a ram.

Photos by Author

Secret? Diversified Goal Setting!

When a determined freshman set his sights on achieving top national honors with his diversified livestock program, nothing could stand in his way.

livestock program of sheep, cattle and hogs earned him top honors in 1984 as National Diversified Livestock Proficiency winner.

Although born and raised on a family farm, he set up his operation on rented land and facilities that he secured for himself.

Brian's father is part of a farming partnership that includes Brian's uncle, grandfather and cousins. Together, they farm 500 acres of corn and run 1,400 head of cattle.

"We don't know if we can afford another partner right now," says his father. "And that's uppermost in my mind.

Brian is the fifth generation of his family to farm, but with the partnership already supporting 14 people, there may not be room for him when he finishes college.

"We don't know if we can afford another partner right now," says his father. "This year we can't. And that's uppermost in my mind."

Fortunately, Brian has been standing on his own two feet for a long time. He had set some early goals.

When he entered vo-ag at Wauseon High School, Brian had already been "in the hog business" since the second grade and had acquired several head of feeder cattle. For his SOEP, he added 10 feeder lambs, but that's when the lessons started coming down hard.

"I bought 'em high and sold 'em low," says Brian matter-of-factly. Liver fluke cost him nearly all of the 10 lambs he had sent to market. "Twenty dollars a head is a lot to lose in anything, especially sheep. It challenged me to see if I could do a little better."

A Block of Wood

"We used to do something in class," explains Jim Speiss. "We used to take a block of wood, lay it in front of the students and say, 'hey, what do you see?' Some people just see it as a block of wood. Other people see it as toothpicks and doorstops and on down the line. Some people can see *more* than what's in front of them. I think that's the magic of management, that you can see more in an object than when it first came to your eye.

When Brian looked around for land to rent, his eye caught sight of the "junkyard," a large lot full of junk cars and debris. For very little money, the land was rented. Brian cleared, replowed, and reseeded it. The chain link fence which enclosed the property made it ideal for his sheep.

Next came the barn. A search turned up "not much of a barn, " but one that could be rented for only $50. Brian built new feed bunks, installed new plumbing and lights, and changed the ventilation system.

"That's one way you can make quite a bit of money," he stresses. "Reduce your capital expenditure and provide your own labor. And I had to provide *quite a lot of labor* to get those barns in shape!" he laughs.

After securing facilities, Brian had to keep them busy. "In the winters, I'd feed the lambs out in the barns that I rented and in the summers I'd farrow the sows out in the same barn," says Brian..

Partly out of necessity, and partly out of curiosity about different livestock, Brian found diversifying was to his advantage. By scheduling his livestock around his facilities, he was able to maximize the return on his investments. And keep his expenses *down*.

"You can spend so much money and not get anywhere," says Brian emphatically. "It's hard enough for people who are experienced right now in agriculture, but you take a freshman in vo-ag: you have equipment costs and so forth and you can only spread them out over four years. It's challenging to complete the project and make it pay."

Brian received a big boost in his management training as a senior when he was placed as a fieldman at Agri-Crop Management, a crop consulting firm in Wauseon.

"He had a farm background," his advisor explains, "and we thought it important that he also experience life in the business community. With the consulting firm, he got on al lot of farms throughout Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, and he got to see other successful operations, other people's ideas." Brian also learned to use a computer for farm analysis.

By the time he graduated from Wauseon High School, Brian had assembled 60 head of feeder cattle, 384 feeder lambs, a sow and 2 litters, 48 feeder pigs, 25 pasture ewes, and 15 ewe/lamb pairs. Not bad for someone renting his land and buildings.

Above, major influences: Brian with cousin Judd (center) and advisor Jim Speiss.

Secrets To Success

The inevitable questions arise; how does he do it? Where does he get the energy and drive to accomplish what he has?

Not surprisingly, the answer is found close to home.

The McClarren farm is a veritable beehive of activity. "It's also an environment of excitement," explains Jim Speiss. "Something is always being changed, nothing ever remains constant."

Take the manure separator that Brian helped design and construct. Or the 700 feet of wooden feed bunks that he helped build in the farm's shop.

Growing up in that environment had an effect on Brian. "It's an attitude development," continues his advisor.

(Continued on Page 63)

Kansas City Countdown

In just a few weeks now over 21,000 FFA members, advisors, parents and ag business leaders will be in Kansas City, Missouri, for the 58th National FFA Convention. The countdown has started toward November 14-16, 1985.

At the National FFA Center preparations are underway to engrave awards for the eight Star Farmers and Agribusinessmen, prepare the ribbons and certificates for Honorary American Farmer degrees and other VIP recognitions and to crate merchandise to be sold in the Supply Service booth at convention.

Popular convention speaker and TODAY weatherman Willard Scott has been scheduled for a second appearance at the National FFA Convention. The NBC weather time-slot will be broadcast on Friday morning preceeding the National FFA Prayer Breakfast. Other speakers will be Zig Ziglar on Thursday morning to kick off the convention; Denis Waitley, Friday afternoon; Rocky Bleier on Saturday morning, and Bart Conner, Olympic star and narrator of a new FFA film, on Thursday.

Convention planners have announced a few convention schedule changes compared to past years. The final session of the convention will be Saturday afternoon ending at 6 p.m. Election of the new national officers will be held during that afternoon session.

The other big change in the schedule will be holding the extemporaneous speaking contest outside the main session. It will be on Friday morning in the Music Hall of the Municipal Auditorium. Next year the prepared speaking contest will be held at that time and place. Both national speaking winners will be honored at the Friday evening convention session.

National FFA Alumni Association has already announced plans to continue the popular Leadership Workshops for FFA members. These sessions are to be conducted by past national officers David Pearce, Missouri; Mark Herndon, Oklahoma; Randy Hedge, Arkansas; John Pope, North Carolina; and Bill Caraway, New Mexico.

The Alumni is also hosting a Meet the Stars session Friday, November 15, from 9-10 a.m. in 201 W. Bartle. Members will first hear remarks from the eight regional Stars, then get to ask the panel questions.

The countdown is underway at the chapter level too. Most chapter delegates have begun their travel plans using details sent with housing forms or the News on the Ag Ed Network or in the advisors' newsletter *BETWEEN ISSUES.*

Eastern Airlines is offering the FFA and FFA Alumni an unrestricted fare of 35 percent off the normal round-trip coach fare within the continental U.S. Call early for the limited special excursion fares at even greater discounted rates. Call (800) 468-7022 (in Florida (800) 282-0244) and refer to account number EZ11P51.

The American Royal is also offering special rates for FFA memers attending the Horse Show during convention week. Any members wearing FFA jackets at the Thursday, Friday or Saturday matinees will be admitted free. At the evening performances, members will be allowed a $2 discount on all seats.

Charly McClain, well-known country artist and Wayne Massey, former soap opera star Johnny Drummond on "One Life to Live," (husband and wife in real life) will be the featured entertainment at the Thursday evening, Friday matinee and Friday evening performances only.

Tickets for all performances will only be sold at the Governor's Building out at the Royal from 9 a.m. -8:30 p.m. daily. No sales at Bartle Hall.

Advisors will want to take special notice of the meal functions being offered at the convention. Members, advisors and guests are invited to a fellowship breakfast Friday, November 15, 1985, at 7:30 a.m. in H. Roe Bartle Hall-South. The TODAY Show weather spot will likely be broadcast and Willard Scott will speak along with Todd Blackledge, Kansas City Chiefs' quarterback. Tickets are $6 in advance ($7 there) before October 15. Network users can send payment with address and $6 per ticket to National FFA Convention Meals, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. Tickets must be picked up at the meal ticket booth near convention registration.

Chapter and state officers and past WCP participants are invited to a leadership dinner Friday, November 15, 1985, at 5 p.m. in H. Roe Bartle Hall-South. Former National FFA Secretary Scott McKain will speak. Tickets are $10 in advance ($11 in Kansas City) also ordered by October 15 from FFA.

The high-tech emphasis of agriculture will be visible in the National Agricultural Career Show exhibits. Plans are set to include with the show a repeat of the popular Ag Ed Network training sessions.

Suspense is mounting, too, as students prepare for the national judging and public speaking events plus interviews as proficiency award winners and national officer candidates. What a week it will be. •••

1985
NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, November 13

8 a.m.	Convention Registration
7:30 p.m.	Vespers program

Thursday, November 14

7 a.m.	Livestock Contest
8-8 p.m.	Convention Registration
8-5 p.m.	National Agricultural Career Show, Bartle Hall
8 a.m.	Meats Contest, Farm Business Management Contest, Nursery/Landscape Contest (Part 1)
8:30 a.m.	Milk Quality & Dairy Foods Contest, Floriculture Contest
9 a.m.	**Opening Session**-Speaker: Zig Ziglar, National Chapter Safety Awards
Noon	Dairy Cattle Contest, Proficiency Awards Luncheon Star Luncheon
12:30 p.m.	Agricultural Mechanics Contest Educational tours
1 p.m.	Alumni Leadership Workshop
2 p.m.	**Second Session**-Guest Speaker, National Chapter Awards, Distinguished Service Citations, Delegate Session, National Prepared Public Speaking Contest
6:30 p.m	National Talent Show
8 p.m.	**Third Session**-Sponsor Recognition, Stars Over America Pageant

Friday, November 15

8-6p.m.	Convention Registration
8-5 p.m.	National Agricultural Career Show
8:30 a.m.	Poultry Contest, Nursery/Landscape Contest (Part 2)
9 a.m.	**Fourth Session**-Honorary American Farmers, VIP Awards, BOAC Awards, Speaker: Willard Scott
10 a.m.	National Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest
11:45 a.m.	American Farmer Luncheon
2 p.m.	**Fifth Session**-Guest Speaker: Denis Waitley, American Farmers, Alumni Recognition
5 p.m.	National Leadership Dinner for Chapter and State FFA Officers
7 p.m.	FFA Band and Chorus Concert
8 p.m.	**Sixth Session**-National Proficiency Awards Pageant, Announcement of Prepared and Extemporaneous Public Speaking Winners, Extemporaneous Winner Speech

Saturday, November 16

7 a.m.	National Contests Awards Breakfasts
8 a.m.-12	Convention Registration
9 a.m.	**Seventh Session**—International Activities, Speaker: Rocky Bleier, Announcement of Judging Contest Winners
2 p.m.	**Closing Session**—Speaker, National FFA President Retiring Address, Election and Installation of New National FFA Officers
4-6 p.m.	Convention Gala Finale

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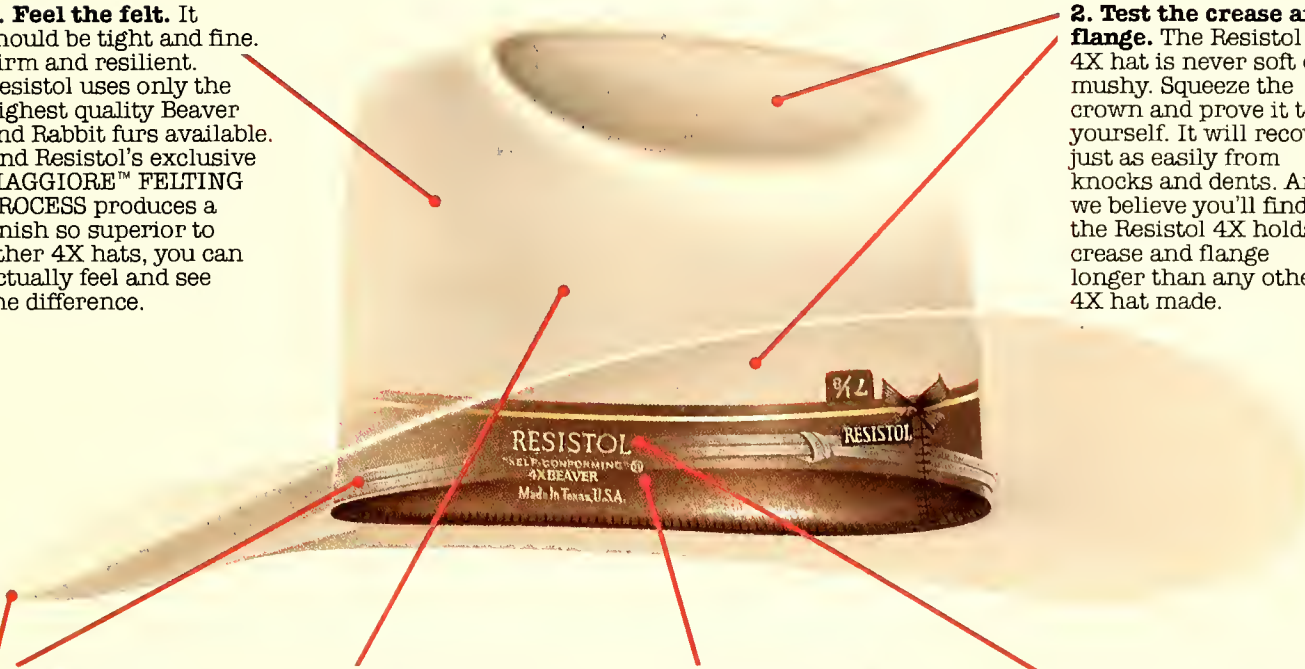

3. Check the detail. Notice the quality of the trim. It should look good and be securely and discreetly attached. And, high quality felt has a tapered or beveled brim edge. Never chopped off or flat. Resistol is proud to set the industry standards for trim and finishing with the extraordinarily crafted Resistol 4X.

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6. Look for the Resistol brand. No other hat maker anywhere takes greater care in the selection of quality furs for felts, or is more uncompromising in detail, or more concerned that every feature of every hat is exactly right, than Resistol.

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Small Town, Big Dreams

Christi Renz took on big responsibilities on her family hog production business and the experience she's gained has been just as rewarding as the trophies

Christi succeeded in FFA because she was able to think big and act accordingly.

By Michael Wilson

EVEN by small-town standards, Kahlotus, Washington, is considered tiny. Except for an occasional sagebrush or prairie dog, it's one of those friendly little dots on the map which usually doesn't get much attention.

Not much, that is, until Christi Renz, who hails from a small town north of Washington's Snake River, began making things happen. Christi may not have put Kahlotus "on the map,"—yet. But her achievement as western region hog proficiency winner at the 1984 National FFA Convention was something every one of her family and friends could be proud of.

Her fellow Kahlotus FFA members—all 13 of them—were certainly proud of Christi.

A 1984 graduate (there were six others in her graduating class) of Kahlotus High School, Christi says growing up in a small town has been the sky is the limit as far as she is concerned. No goal has been too big, both in FFA and in the home hog farm where she works in partnership with her father, Phil Renz. Armed with a desire to excel, the farm seemed like a natural place to have fun, set some goals—and learn something in the process.

"Everything on the farm had to be started from scratch when we moved here in 1976," she says of the 160-acre dryland wheat farm. "There weren't any farm buildings here besides the house. Nothing."

Christi says her father's interest in livestock sparked her interest as well. She began by raising sheep, but decided by the time she was 11 years old to switch to hog production. "That's when we decided to go full blast into the purebred Duroc business," she explains.

Christi began taking care of one sow, then two, then two more. The family added a purebred boar from national-winning bloodlines, resulting in top-notch feeder pigs. Soon the Renzes reputation as top producers began to filter among established breeders.

One reason why Christi earned the prestigious regional proficiency award is because she has taken on almost all responsibility for the hog business; her dad is a full time ag teacher at a nearby high school. At one time, Christi's partnership with Mr. Renz was on a 50-50 basis. But three years ago, she took two-thirds control of the operation. Now that Christi is in her second year of college studies at Washington State University, growth and control of the business is likely to be shared by younger sister Tammi, brother Boyd, or Christi's mother, Carol Renz.

"Responsibility is the biggest factor," says Christi. "Raising hogs, you learn to make decisions on your own. It's all up to you."

Part of Christi's responsibilities were to keep an extensive farrowing chart for the farm. Her detailed record keeping provided litter numbers, percentages of pigs born live and tallies on iron shots, farrow dates, dam and sire names. Christi has been keeping farrowing records since the sixth grade—so it came naturally when she needed to fill out FFA records and award applications.

Christi, Tammi and Mr. Renz built the farm's farrowing house at the Lind vocational agriculture shop, where Mr. Renz teaches. The house holds six crates, each elevated to about 10-12 inches. "That way the sows always have a clean surface, because the manure drops down below," explains Christi.

The Renzes had their hands full when they expanded to a 24-sow farrow-to-finish setup. "It was pretty tough for a while with only six farrowing crates," admits Christi.

To avoid simultaneous farrowing, Christi and her dad plan for three

(Continued on Page 21)

Besides the hard work it takes to make a hog operation successful, Christi has added good management practices to her program.

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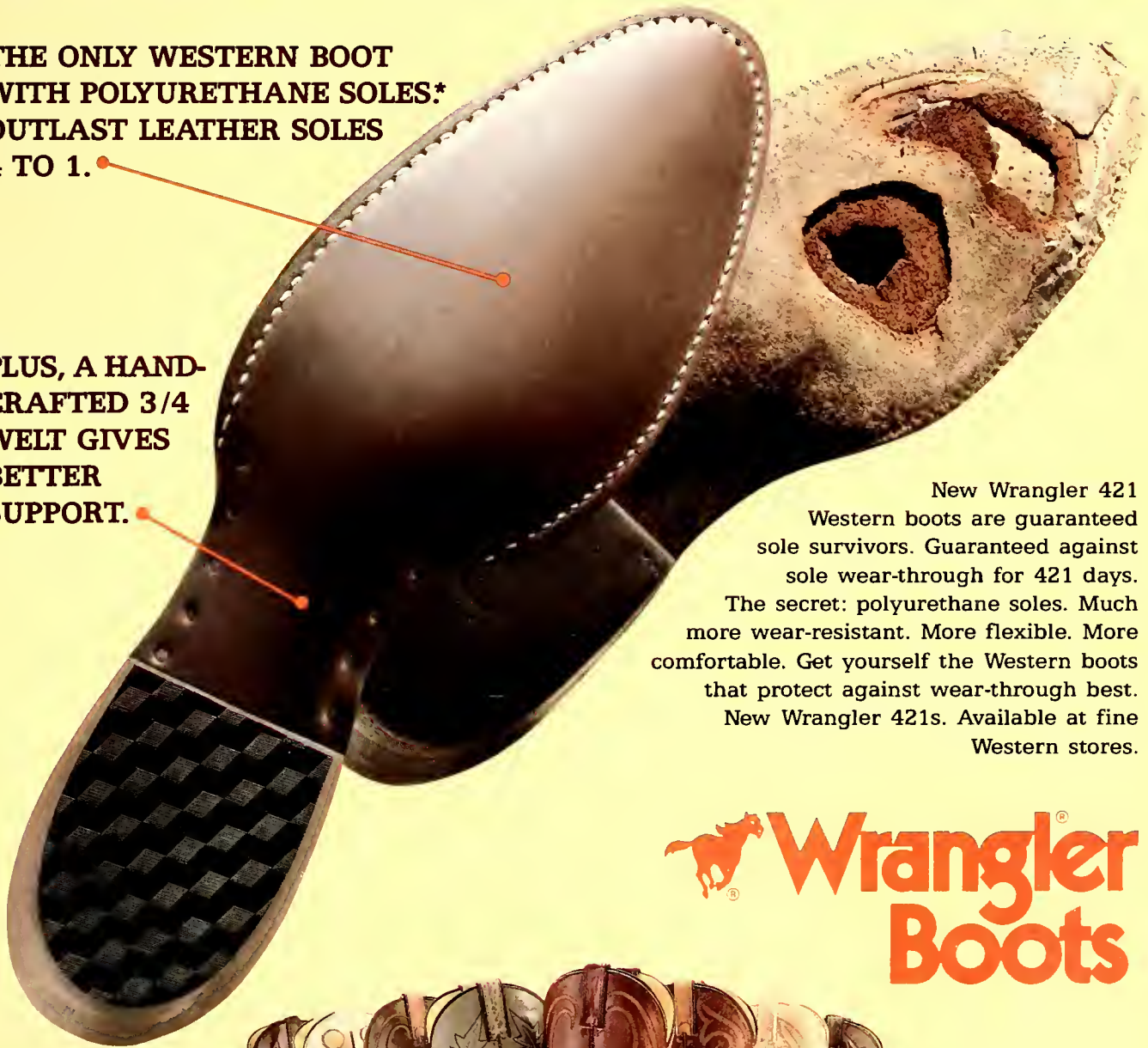

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Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
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Dreams

(Continued from Page 18)

farrowing cycles. "Sometimes we wean at five weeks and put the piglets into holding areas with heat lamps," she says. "Normally we like to wean at six weeks and leave the baby pigs in the crates for two weeks so the pigs can get adapted to being with the mother in a controlled climate."

From there, the Renzes either sell the weaned pigs or finish feeding them on their own farm. The high-quality stock provides practice for livestock judging, a favorite activity among both Christi and Tammi. Christi has performed on the state livestock judging team and was named twelfth in the nation as a sophomore. She participated in the state meats team her junior year and earned second-high individual in dairy judging as a senior. Tammi, 18, has placed third-high individual in the state's livestock judging contest and first-high individual in meats judging in 1983. Both girls have earned gold and silver awards on the national level.

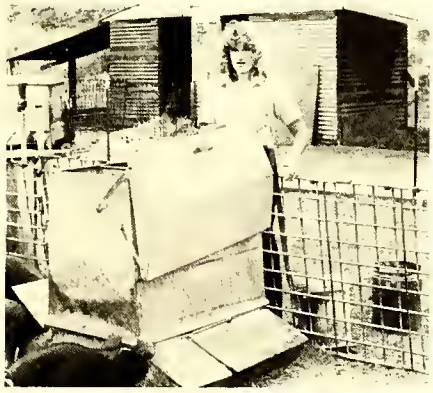
In addition to the hogs, the family also owns a small flock of Suffolk sheep. But Christi says her first love has always been those Duroc hogs. "I've always liked Durocs the best, because they are an ideal hog in this climate," explains Christi. "Too much heat would hurt black (Hampshire) hogs and white hogs (Yorkshire) would get sunburned.

"We weren't interested in crossbreds because there are more opportunities to sell stock at different purebred shows," she continues. "The registered hog will average $50/head more in price than crossbreds. That varies with age and bloodlines, but that's average.

Christi knows the hog business through and through. But she says knowing the business hasn't been the most valuable aspect of her farm and FFA experience.

"I've enjoyed raising hogs because I've gained a lot of responsibility, record keeping and management skills," explains Christi, who currently has a major in agriculture education and a minor in criminology at Washington State University.

"But even if I weren't involved in agriculture, that ability will always help me." •••



Learning to accept the responsibility of daily care and feeding of a swine herd is a valuable lesson for any FFA member. Christi has mastered that lesson.

Disease control is a major responsibility in any hog operation and certainly an important one for Christi.

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Stars Over America 1985

Thursday night, November 14, 1985, eight men and women will receive their awards as Regional Star Farmers and Agribusinessmen at the National FFA Convention. Two will be named national winners. Find out who they are and what brought them to the top.

A YOUNG student enrolls as a freshman in vocational agriculture. Skills are few, expectations fewer, but enthusiasm runs high.

In the back of his or her mind, images come slowly into focus: SOEP, Greenhand degree, parliamentary procedure, soil judging, public speaking, chapter officer, *American Farmer*.

A film is shown in class: "Stars Over America". Pictured on screen is the cream of the crop, the best of the best in FFA. Eight stories of achievement that are both individually remarkable and collectively familiar. These are men and women who, quite simply, did the very best *they were capable of*.

Somewhere, in the back of that young student's mind, there develops an exciting, yet frightening thought: "what if...what if *I* could become one of them? What if I gave it all *I* have?"

With nothing to lose, and everything to gain, it begins...

The Stars Come Out

Over the past six or seven years, eight young men and women have been putting forth their best efforts in Supervised Occupational Experience. Now, it's paying off.

At the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, on the night of November 14, 1985, eight individuals will be presented the coveted awards for Regional Star Farmer and Regional Star Agribusinessman. Each will receive a check for $1,000 from the National FFA Foundation. The two winners will receive an extra $1,000.

During a packed evening session witnessed by some 20,000 FFA members, advisors, sponsors, and guests, national President Steve Meredith will open the envelope and read out the names, "Ladies and Gentlemen, the Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America for 1985..."

Two members will make FFA history that night.

Who are these people? Where do they come from? And what have they done that makes them so special?

Meet the eight regional Star candidates for 1985.

Central Region
Star Farmer
Michael Arends
Willmar, Minnesota

Who says you can't get started in farming if your father doesn't farm? Not Mike Arends, that's for sure.

Mike's father is a mechanic, and that meant Mike had to put his operation together on his own. He began with a gilt from the Willmar FFA Chapter's gilt ring. To supplement his farming program, he took a position as a farm worker and also did outside mechanical work. These jobs proved invaluable for him as he gained first-hand experience on a working farm and generated enough cash to finance his own operation.

Each year, Mike expanded by increasing his number of animals, buying or renting more land, and constructing buildings and facilities. All his earnings were plowed back into the farm.

Today, he works over 900 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat, and his 340-head hog operation helps keep his cash flow balanced. By renting land, sharecropping, buying used equipment, and forward contracting, he has been able to establish and expand a farming enterprise when many other farmers are having difficulties.

Mike got the most out of vocational agriculture and FFA, participating in no fewer than five contest areas. He also accomplished something only a handful have done before: he won back-to-back national proficiency awards in Agricultural Mechanics and Crop Production.

With this much going for him in such diffieult economic times, Mike Arends seems destined for success, and his example is pointing the way for others to follow. Now, with his help, Mike's father is beginning to farm on a limited basis.

Central Region
Star Agribusinessman
Timothy D. Price
Bloomington, Wisconsin

To some people, mechanics is a field full of mystery and bafflement. For Tim Price, it's an art form and Tim's goal is to become a master of the art.

(Continued on Page 25)

The most important piece of safety equipment your kids have, is you.

It's not a helmet. Or goggles. Or any article of protective clothing.

Don't get us wrong. Safety equipment is very important. But it doesn't mean a thing unless it gets used.

That's where you come in. Only you can make sure your kids wear protective gear whenever they ride all-terrain vehicles.

Only you can be sure they receive qualified instruction on how to ride.

Only you can keep them from riding on paved roads and carrying passengers.

Only you can make sure kids under 14 don't ride full-size machines.

So please use good judgment and supervise your kids. Because you're the best protection they have.

For more safety information see your Honda dealer, or call the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) at 1-800-447-4700.

HONDA

ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET AND EYE PROTECTION. ©1985 American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (10/85)

Hunter Safety Team Wins National Title

At left, the Ledford FFA Hunter Safety Team on the rifle range. At right, with their awards: from left, front row, Todd Penley, Dale Lambeth; back row, Lee Jeffreys, Ken Fowler, Jeff Everhart and Advisor Steve Cline.

MOST every afternoon—from February to June—residents of the Ledford Senior High School community who pass by the gravel pit can hear or see members of the FFA hunter safety team practicing riflery, trapping and archery.

Hunter safety certification is taught in some classes in North Carolina public and private schools. Seven years ago a hunter safety shooting tournament was started at Kinston with the help of the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission, North Carolina Wildlife Federation, John Deere and the Coca Cola Bottling Company.

The first tournament was held under the leadership of Lt. Wilton Pate, wildlife safety officer from Kinston. Twenty school teams and 130 participants entered the tournament.

Five years ago Steve Cline, Ledford High School FFA advisor, decided to enter a team in the contest. First he taught the hunter safety course in class. The purpose of the course is to teach the safe use of firearms for the sport of hunting as well as the responsibility that goes along with hunting. This course is also taught to adult groups. Cline's first team was made up of eight members who placed 34th out of 60 school teams. After this poor showing, Mr. Cline was determined to do better the next year.

An agreement was set up between Charles Green, a local resident, and the school for the team to practice on his land adjacent to the school. Twenty individuals came out for the team the next year. After many hours of practice after school and on Saturdays the seven-man team went to Kinston in 1982 and won their first state hunter safety tournament. Since 1982 they have won the state tournament every year.

After winning the 1985 tournament in April, the team began preparing for the first North American Hunter Education Championship to be held July 3-6 in Chestertown, Maryland. Team members are: Todd Penley, Jeff Everhart, Lee Jeffreys, Chris White, Ken Fowler, andy Weavil, Eddie Saunders, Dale Lambeth, Chris Kennedy and Brian Motsinger.

Advisor Cline was faced with a difficult decision. Unlike the state tournament, in the North American tournament each team could consist of only five members.

Five team members were selected after six weeks of competing against each other. They were Todd Penley, Jeff Everhart, Lee Jeffreys, Ken Fowler and Dale Lambeth.

The North American Tournament offered a new challenge to the Ledford shooting team. The shooting events were different from the North Carolina State Tournament. The .22 rifle was shot from short, medium and long range distances varying from 15-75 yards. The target was a silhouette woodchuck with scoring rings superimposed over the vital areas. Archery was shot at six stations at varying unknown distances between 10-35 yards.

Arrows were shot at deer silhouette targets with vital areas scored as a hit or miss. The shotgun event was a form of the hunters clay tournament with rounds shot at three stations. It included two doubles and one single shot over water simulating waterfowl. The compass course, not a part of the state tournament, was run by all five members of the team, each doing an individual leg of the course. At each station the individual running that part of the course was asked ten questions concerning outdoor skills, compass and map reading and wildlife identification. The written test consisted of 60 questions on hunter responsibility and wildlife identification.

After several weeks of practicing, the Ledford FFA team arrived at Remington Farms to compete along with teams and individuals from 11 other states and Alberta, Canada, for the North American championship. The tournament was sponsored by Remington Arms, Remington Farms, DuPont and the National Rifle Association.

After three days of shooting and testing the Ledford High School FFA team had won the overall senior division championship scoring 3,998 points. Maryland placed second with 3,839 points and third place went to Alberta, Canada, with 3,675 points. Ledford also won the rifle, shotgun and archery championships. Ken Fowler won the high individual overall championship and Todd Penley was third. Ken and Todd tied for second place individual in archery with Lee Jeffreys placing fifth. Ken won first place in the shotgun event with Todd, third and Lee, fifth. Jeff Everhart finished fifth in rifle.

The team won numerous plaques and medals as well as a shotgun, rifle and skeet thrower donated by Remington Arms and a Browning bow. Upon arriving back in North Carolina the team was honored by Governor Jim Martin at the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission meeting in Raleigh.

Since this was the first North American Tournament, it is anticipated that next year will see more teams and states present. The Ledford team plans to be back to defend their title. FFA chapters wanting to participate in this program should contact the National Rifle Association or their respective state wildlife associations for more information. •••

Stars

(Continued from Page 22)

Tim grew up next door to Bloomington Equipment Company, a business started and managed by his father. With a strong curiosity about "what makes things run right," he began working for the company while in the seventh grade.

Over the years, Tim has done it all: from tune-ups and oil changes to major engine overhauls and transmission repair. To supplement his mechanics training in vo-ag, he has attended numerous company-sponsored sales and service schools.

Versatility is what Tim is all about. He is experienced in woodworking, electrical wiring, landscaping, and building construction. He built many of the shop's workbenches, engine stands and special tools.

FFA offered Tim some incentives in his chosen field. His SOE program in mechanics earned him top honors as winner of the national proficiency award in Agricultural Mechanics and as Star State Agribusinessman for Wisconsin.

Along with his father and brother, Tim is in the process of buying the business from the former owner. The resulting family corporation should provide him with a lifetime of opportunity and challenge.

Eastern Region
Star Farmer
David C. Sutherland
Hobart, New York

David Sutherland loves dairying. And he knows Holsteins, inside and out.

Raised on a registered Holstein dairy farm, David found his mission early in life. By the time he had joined FFA, he owned seven head of registered cattle. Today, he's a full partner in Chapel Bank Farm, along with his parents, sister and brother-in-law.

Since his father has a full-time job off the farm, David and his brother-in-law assume all of the day-to-day labor and management roles. David has primary responsibility for the 70-cow milking herd and with merchandising the cattle. He also controls all feeding operations.

When the partnership first formed, each of the partners contributed their animals and machinery. They purchased a 217-acre farm that had not been worked for several years and set about enriching the land, improving the herd and adding some buildings and silos.

The renovation provided the opportunity to build improvements that were labor saving and efficient. Today, the dairy is a model of productivity.

Being named State and Regional Star Farmer capped a busy FFA career for David. The former chapter president was active in public and extemporaneous speaking on the state level and was an avid exhibitor of livestock.

Always striving to be on the cutting edge of his field, David became heavily involved in international marketing of dairy cattle and with embryo transfers for the breeding program.

Married earlier this year, David and his wife, Yvonne, are looking forward to an interesting and rewarding life as part of the Chapel Bank Farm partnership.

Eastern Region
Star Agribusinessman
Valerie Sue Parks
New Concord, Ohio

Valerie Parks is a bit of a surprise. Born and raised on a 360-acre diversified livestock farm in southeastern Ohio, she entered vo-ag with considerable hands-on production experience. From there, things really took off.

Her SOEP revolved around a cow/calf herd, a ewe/lamb flock, forage crops, feeder lambs and feeder cattle. Major emphasis was placed on the ewe/lamb flock.

The results speak for themselves: she earned top state honors in sheep proficiency and was district winner in sheep, accounting, and placement in production. She was named Star Sectional Farmer of Ohio.

With all her commitments at home, Valerie still found time to get involved. She served as chapter officer, class president, head cheerleader and in numerous other school and community activities. Then came a year as vice-president in the Ohio FFA Association.

Upon graduation, Valerie was employed by the R.J. Ranch as an assistant herdsman and was charged with caring for the Simmental herd and preparing cattle for competition.

It was at Ohio State University that her horizons widened. Enrolled as an ag communications major with a minor in animal science, Valerie was hired at the OSU Sheep Facility. Looking for still more, she sought a job with the Agri-Business Network (ABN), an agricultural radio and TV news and information service.

Starting as a board technician, Valerie has served as production manager, farm editor, on-air personality, commercial producer and account executive. Her work at the ABN represents the culmination of her farming, leadership and communications training.

For Valerie, the real payoff in her field is the chance to "speak out" for agriculture. This she does with an authority and passion that only comes from first-hand experience. Valerie Parks *knows* agriculture.

Southern Region
Star Farmer
John Scott Edwards
LaFollette, Tennessee

As a freshman in vocational agriculture, John Edwards' advisors urged him to set his sights on securing the American Farmer degree. Typically for John, he did just that—and much more.

Raised on a dairy farm in eastern Tennessee, John was bitten by the dairy bug early. But, rather than concentrate exclusively on dairy farming, he combined both production and agribusiness experience for his SOEP.

Today, John's farming program consists of 53 head of registered Holstein cattle and 145 acres of corn, hay and tobacco. Off the farm, he hauls cattle and tobacco, does custom tobacco seedbed sterilization as a partner in Edwards General Merchandise, and works as the

(Continued on Page 26)

Stars

(Continued from Page 25)

local sales representative for American Breeders Service.

John took great pride in the registered Holstein herd and improved it steadily through embryo transfer and artificial insemination. His proficiency with dairy cattle earned him a spot on his chapter's dairy judging team. That same team went on to win the national competition at the FFA convention in 1979 and represented the U.S. at the World Dairy Judging Contest in Scotland.

Serving as chapter president and participating in public speaking activities prepared John for his job as sales rep for ABS. Thanks to all his business enterprises, he has been able to expand his farming program at an accelerated pace.

Having many irons in the fire has added an element of diversification to John's operation. In today's economy, that's just the position he needs to make it.

Southern Region
Star Agribusinessman
Scott F. Cochran
Lavonia, Georgia

Like many others before him, Scott Cochran entered vocational agriculture armed with a tremendous desire for farming but no access to facilities at home. Undaunted, he purchased market hogs to be raised in a pen that he built.

His initial financial success led to a pig chain gilt which he raised and exhibited at several fairs. Then, faced with low swine prices and the high investment needed to grow as a hog producer, Scott elected to liquidate his swine project. Fortunately, he had developed alternatives.

In 1980, Scott had started working for Whitworth Feed Mills, a nearby agribusiness. He began at the bottom, cleaning the feed trucks and the mill floor. Over the past five years he has worked his way up first to mechanic and feed helper, then to assistant manager. After displaying the kind of know-how and dependability for which he's become known, Scott was named manager of the mill, all at the tender age of 20.

Scott employs all of the skills learned in vo-ag for his job at the mill. His mechanics training, managerial skills, leadership ability, and production background all enhance his worth as a valuable employee.

In his "spare" time, Scott is attending night classes at Brenau College to obtain a degree in business administration. His goal is to become general manager of Whitworth Mills.

Western Region
Star Farmer
Byron L. Tlucek
Melba, Idaho

Like many others, Byron Tlucek's start in agriculture began long before he entered high school. And, like many others raised on a family farm, it was Byron's parents who provided that first Holstein heifer when he turned 12 years old. What he made of that start, however, was all up to Byron.

The Tlucek's family operation consists of a 900 cow dairy and 1,800 acres of alfalfa, hay, barley, field corn, and potatoes. The Tluceks grow most of their own feed, ensuring control over the herd's diet.

A training agreement between Byron and his father set the tone for his SOE program: drylot and feeding facilities were rented from the family dairy; feed was bought at fair market value; cropland and machinery were rented; and Byron was responsible for all costs incurred, including breeding, vet and medicine.

As a freshman, Byron ran his three cows with the family herd and rented 20 acres from his father. Today his herd numbers over 100 head and he's added 60 acres of crops.

FFA provided Byron an opportunity to acquire and hone important leadership skills that were vital for becoming an effective manager. Three years a chapter officer, the former president was active in parliamentary procedure, public and extemporaneous speaking and dairy cattle judging.

David Daniel, Byron's vo-ag teacher and advisor, recalls that in his Ag-I record book, in the planning ahead section, Byron had written that his career goal was to become a dairy farmer. Six years later, what began as a Greenhand dream has now become reality.

Western Region
Star Agribusinessman
Paul A. Burrell
Fairview, Oklahoma

There are many good farmers, and there are many good agribusinessmen. There are precious few, however, who are both.

Paul Burrell lives on a wheat and cattle farm in Fairview, Oklahoma. His family operates Burrell Implement Company in town. Paul has come to know both locations like the back of his hand.

During high school, Paul maintained an impressive SOE program which revolved around beef, sheep, swine, horses and crops. At the same time, he put in thousands of hours at the family implement business, learning the ropes of service, parts, sales, accounting and administration. He became a key figure in the company's management team.

Paul brings a special quality to his work in sales. With his extensive experience in production agriculture, he can relate to a farmer's needs in helping select the right piece of equipment for the job. Being a farmer and rancher gives him a genuine edge in establishing good customer relations.

In a field as competitive as farm equipment sales, Paul has learned that aggressive management is the key to staying alive, much less expanding. To ensure that he gets the longest jump on the competition, he is earning a degree in agricultural economics at Oklahoma State University. Already he is bringing back valuable experience in the areas of computerization and marketing.

Paul's plans call for expansion of his farming and ranching operations while he integrates further into the implement dealership. For a man of two worlds, the future seems assured. •••

If you're unsure of what's ahead for you, you'll like what's ahead of you.

If you have a few minutes, we'd like you to spend them in the Army. On the next eight pages, you'll find information about how well an Army enlistment can fit in with your future plans.

You'll also hear from young soldiers who, just like you, were looking for a way to learn a valuable skill, earn money for college, or make the most of their potential. They found it all in the Army.

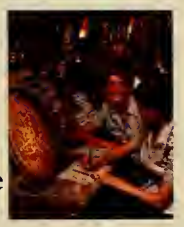
We hope you like what you're about to see of the Army. And if you'd like to see more, call or visit your local Army Recruiter.

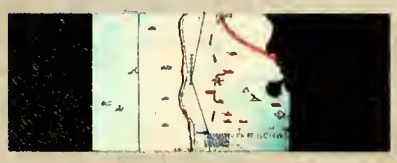
→

HERE ARE SOME FACTS ABOUT THE ARMY THAT READ LIKE SCIENCE FICTION.

The real strength behind today's Army isn't manpower. It's brainpower.

That's why the Army has become the world's largest technical school, training men and women in many different fields and at all levels of sophistication.

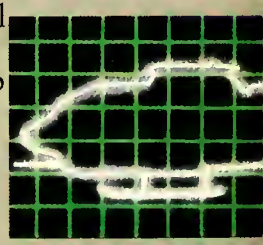




FACT: Many pieces of Army equipment have one thing in common: the electronics that play an integral part in their operation. That's why one out of every four job skills in the Army involves electronics.

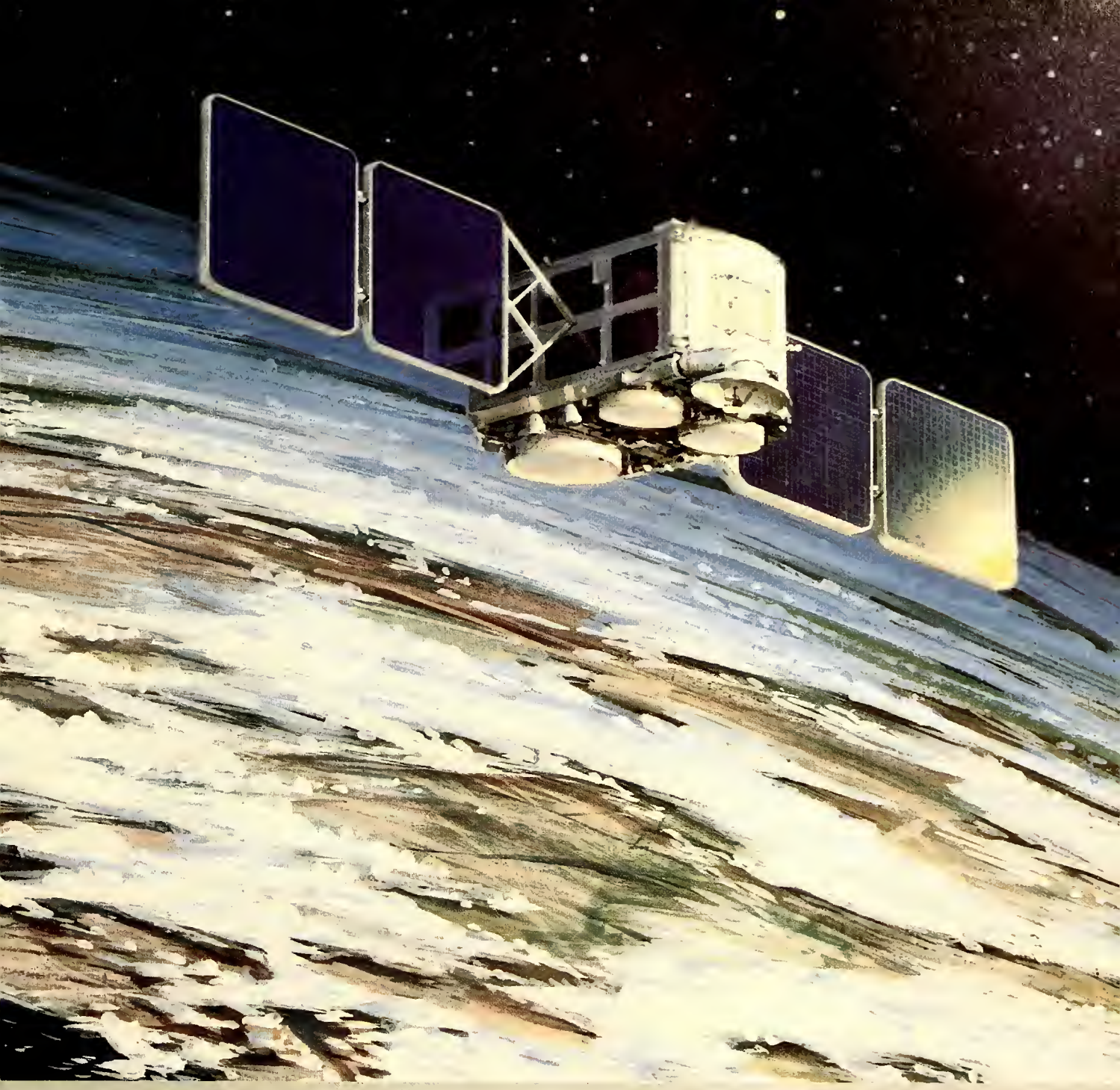
Depending on what you'd like to get involved in, your training can range from operating basic equipment to troubleshooting some of the world's most advanced satellite systems.

FACT: With over 8,600 aircraft, the Army has become quite a force in the air. And it takes a small army of specialists to keep these aircraft flying.

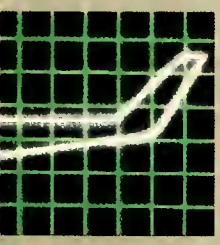


Pilots, avionics experts, radar technicians, air traffic controllers, and scores of others.

The Army trains people in all phases of aviation.



So if you'd like a skill that can help you reach new heights, the Army can give you the groundwork.



FACT: In today's high-tech Army, we depend on computers almost as much as we depend on people.

We have computers that help operate tanks, fly helicopters, and launch missiles with pinpoint accuracy.

There are computers that help our doctors save lives by saving them valuable time during emergencies.

But computers are only as smart as the people operating them.

That's why we offer computer training in everything from minute microprocessors to huge computing centers.

No matter where your aptitude and interest lie—from computers to electronics to aviation—today's Army is the right place to learn tomorrow's skills.

ARMY.
BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

"Who else would help you save money for college and give you an education at the same time?"

SP4 Ivan Torres, Rocket Launch Systems

"I always figured on going to college. What I wasn't sure about was how to pay for it. So I checked out the Army.

"It turned out they could help me a lot, with money for school. I signed up for the Army College Fund. For every dollar I put in, the government adds four.

"The Army is also helping with my future.

"See, the Army has taught me a skill. I wanted to learn about high-tech computers, and they sent me to school. When we go to the field and I do my job, the whole mission gets off. And that's a real good feeling.

"But the Army teaches you other things...how to work with the soldier next to you. How to get a job done right. You learn to care more about the people around you, too—really, being in the Army teaches you about life."

Right now, the Army offers programs that can help you accumulate over $25,000 for college. Along the way, you'll earn something no one can put a price on: self-respect. The kind that comes with learning a valuable skill; with being a more disciplined, confident person—in short, with becoming an American soldier.

If you'd like to learn how the Army can help you pay for college, pay a visit to your local Army Recruiter. Or call toll free 1-800-USA-ARMY.

ARMY.
BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

"I thought I could test myself here. But I've practically reinvented myself."

SP4 Michelle Kowalski, Signal Intelligence

"I wanted a challenge, a big challenge in life, and I felt that the Army offered one. I called a recruiter, and he told me about the benefits. I made the decision to go for it.

"I knew it was going to be tough. But it was a way that I could prepare myself for the future. An avenue I could follow to my own independence.

"Because of the tests I've gone through, I call it an inner journey.

"Like especially Basic Training. You're ready to break, but somehow you pull through, and then you start to realize that the Army really knows how to build you up to take those kinds of stress.

"The D.L.I.—that's the Defense Language Institute, where I trained for my job in Military Intelligence—that was really hard, in a different sense. It has given me a lot of self-discipline. You're expected to be on time. To be responsible. To be versatile.

"Some people call it character building. I call it insurance.

"After the D.L.I., I started at the very bottom of working my job. It's terrifically rewarding and exciting. Something you could never experience anywhere else.

"I want to do something with my life, and the Army has already been an avenue for that. If you want to grow up—all the way up—and find out what you're made of, I recommend it.

"In fact, I think it's something everyone should go through."

The Army experience could be a very strong bridge between high school and the rest of your life. For more information about Army opportunities, stop in and see your local Army Recruiter or call toll free 1-800-USA-ARMY.

ARMY.

BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

YOU WIND UP WISHING IT WERE MORE THAN ONE WEEKEND A MONTH.

You might find yourself in a chopper, cruising the treetops at 90 miles per hour.

Or doing something more down to earth, like repairing an electronic circuit.

What you won't find yourself doing is getting bored. Because this isn't ordinary part-time work. It's the Army Reserve.

You'll get valuable skill training. Then, one weekend a month and two weeks each summer, you'll put that training to good use, while receiving good pay and benefits.

But maybe most important, you'll come away with a feeling deep down that you were challenged and came through. And that doesn't disappear when Monday rolls around.

See your local Army Reserve recruiter about serving near your home. Or call toll free 1-800-USA-ARMY.

ARMY RESERVE.
BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

The Preservation of Liberty

FFA joins the national effort to save an American treasure.

In New York Harbor she stands. A figure matching great strength with elusive warmth. A symbol of yesterday; of freedom and tradition. A symbol of today; depicting patriotism and pride. A symbol of tomorrow; projecting hope and commitment.

The Statue of Liberty was presented to the United States of America as a gift from the people of France. She was created by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, a French sculptor, with the help of Gustave Eiffel (of Eiffel Tower fame) who designed the interior iron framework.

The statue took nine years from original design to finished product and was officially delivered to the United States in 1884. People in this country had been working to raise money for Liberty's pedestal, and, in 1886, the statue found her home.

For millions of immigrants fleeing hunger, turmoil and oppression in the Old World, the Statue of Liberty, after a long ocean voyage, was their first glimpse of a New World that promised hope and opportunity.

Presently nearing her 100th anniversary in October of 1986, Liberty, atop her now worn pedestal, has suffered the ravages of time and the elements. Her large iron framework is severely corroded and structural problems require extensive renovation. The 200,000 pounds of ⅛-inch thick copper sheathing that cover her iron framework are in dire need of repair.

Once again, the American people, whose forebears earlier gathered contributions to build the pedestal on which Liberty rests, are being called upon to help raise money to restore the statue and nearby Ellis Island where immigrants to this country were processed until 1954. A total of $230 million in funds is currently being sought from school children, companies and other private citizens and organizations.

On May 18, 1982, President Ronald Reagan and the Secretary of the Interior announced the formation of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission and appointed Lee A. Iacocca, chairman and CEO of Chrysler, as its chairman.

The commission's goals, in addition to raising the funds needed for the restoration process, are to: advise the National Park Service and Department of Interior in establishing a lasting memorial to the immigrants who helped build America; plan and implement centennial commemoration events; and further develop plans for the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island National Monument after the centennial celebrations. •••

Chains unshackled at her feet, the Statue of Liberty holds aloft the torch that has lit the way for millions of immigrants to begin new lives. After almost 100 years, the huge statue is now in need of major preservation work to prepare her for her 1986 Centennial.

National Officers Lead the Drive to Save Liberty

There are no trophies, plaques, prizes or awards, no free trips or cash benefits...just a feeling. A feeling of pride in our country and a desire to save a symbol of freedom.

Acting on the recommendation of the delegates at the 57th National FFA Convention, the national officers helped develop a nationwide campaign to earn money toward the restoration of the Statue of Liberty. Our campaign is designed to enable all 430,000 FFA members to participate and show their pride in one great, cooperative effort.

This past summer, through National Leadership Conferences for State Officers and the State Presidents' Conference, we have been gathering ideas and input. Many of those ideas were included in the information packet mailed to each chapter. It is our hope and intent that each chapter will use these suggestions or come up with their own ideas and formulate a plan of action to raise money for the statue's restoration.

Chapters raising funds can channel those dollars through their state association or send them directly to the National FFA Center. The money collected will be presented in one large sum to the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Commission in the name of the Future Farmers of America.

We, the National FFA Officers, urge your participation in this effort. Although agriculture is facing one of its most difficult economic times, our support is that much more valuable and satisfying. This is especially true when we consider that the FFA is an organization built upon patriotism and citizenship.

We have chosen as our theme, "Securing a Place in History...," because it depicts exactly what we are doing through our efforts. Please join us in this campaign and help FFA lead the way in contributing to the restoration of a true national treasure, the Statue of Liberty.

National FFA Officers
1984-85

Mt. Horeb's Japanese Connection

To put an international work exchange program together, someone has to make the first move. Five years ago, someone did.

TRY to imagine this: you're a high school agriculture student on an international work experience abroad program. You've been placed on a farm halfway around the world where you work as hard as you ever have in your life. Your host family doesn't speak a word in your own language and you can barely manage a full sentence in theirs. Luckily for you, the food looks stranger than it tastes. Everyone around you has this odd habit of smiling whenever they see you and you wonder how anyone could be so bold as to leave their shoes on when they walk in the house.

Outer Mongolia? Possibly one of the more remote regions of the Himilayas?

Surprise! You're in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, and you've never seen anything like *this* back home.

You—or rather they—are members of the Future Farmers of Japan, here for a two-week stay in the United States to experience first-hand its people, lifestyle and agriculture. And what a two weeks it is!

Why Mount Horeb, you ask? Good question, and one with a very good answer. First, a little background.

Five years ago, an agricultural mechanics teacher by the name of Saburo Matsumoto came to this country on a mission. He was searching for just the right location to bring his Japanese voag students to so that they could learn about America's agriculture and people.

His initial research took him to New York City where he stayed mostly in his hotel room watching television and learning English with the help of a Japanese-English dictionary. Armed with a map and a few phone numbers, he set forth in search of a suitable agricultural area with excellent dairy farms for his students.

Working with FFA's International Specialist, Lennie Gamage, Mr. Matsumoto was introduced to the Future Farmers of America. Eleven states later, he eventually found his way to Wisconsin. After looking at a few of their dairies (and sampling some sharp cheddar), it was all over. Thus began one of the most successful international exchange programs ever to come out of Mount Horeb, Wisconsin.

East Meets West

In truth, the program has been enormously successful. For the past four years, Japanese students have been placed with farm families in the Mount Horeb area, living and working the life of an American dairyman. The host families have taken an immediate liking to the young Japanese and usually sprinkle a liberal helping of extracurricular activities in with the workload.

As you might expect, Mr. Matsumoto sought and found a key man to be his American connection. Mr. George Johnson, head of vocational agriculture at Mount Horeb High School, was able to provide the logistic and administrative support to get the students effectively placed. Together, they have developed and refined a model work experience abroad program.

"Someone asked how I put the right student at the right farm," says Mr. Johnson. "It's really an act of God because I just go down the list. I do look at the student's hobbies. If I have someone with a similar hobby, I put them together." The host families "adopt" their young guests for two weeks during the month of July.

The students come from Tajima Agricultural High School in Japan's Hyogo Prefecture (state). The 13 boys and 4 girls participating in this year's program were selected from a larger group of hopeful applicants. Good grades and English skills are mandatory to be considered for the trip. Add to that the $1,700 price tag which each student's family must cover, and you begin to appreciate how highly the trip is regarded by the students.

While in the United States, the Japanese visitors get the blue ribbon tour before settling in with their host families. Sightseeing stops are made in Los Angeles and Chicago as they take in Disneyland and a Cubs baseball game. "Los

(Continued on Page 41)

Above, student Ridado Ueki bottle-feeding calves.
Left, George Johnson (standing, center), Saburo Matsumoto (standing, far right) and the 1985 Japanese exchange students.

FFA Invades Scouting Jamboree

The Scouts who toured the FFA Center are, left to right, Matt Schaumburg, Larry Carter, Mike Cummings, Doug VanHoveln, Advisor Focken and Brent Schaumburg.

A BORDER collie, three computers and a six-hole mini-golf course were used by FFA member Explorer Scouts who were given the opportunity to demonstrate agricultural merit badges at the recent Boy Scouts of America Jamboree.

The Scouts are members of the Milford and Jerseyville, Illinois, FFA Chapters in Southern Illinois. Their advisor, Gary Focken, is also leader for the Milford Post 100 Explorer Troop.

Although about half of the FFA chapter would have liked to attend, only five could be included (and could fit in the bus—but that's more for later in the story.) Plus it was FFA-fair time back home and that kept some away.

Milford FFA juniors Matthew Schaumburg, Brent Schaumburg and Larry Carter made the trip as did chapter president Doug VanHoveln and Jerseyville member Mike Cummings, both seniors.

The purpose of their demonstrations was to generate awareness for agriculture among the 33,000 Scouts at the week-long Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill in Virginia, south of Washington, DC, about 65 miles.

There have been agricultural merit badges for many years in the Scouting program. In fact, over the years FFA national executive secretaries have been consultants to the BSA.

As part of the Jamboree there is a Merit Badge Midway where demonstrations are conducted for all to see which promote interest by other Scouts in new and varied merit badge programs. For example, NASA demonstrated for space and AT&T for communications.

The Milford Scouts were invited by BSA officials to demonstrate four specific ag merit badge areas—plant science, animal science, farm management and farm mechanics.

The border collie helped with a livestock herding demonstration. Each hole in the six-hole mini-golf course was a farm management problem to be solved. The FFA Scouts also did some goat roping for fun to get attention of the many passersby. Also the three computers were popular with Scouts who were just starting an ag merit badge.

At the Jamboree the Milford members got some extra help from the Patrick Henry, and Caroline County Virginia, FFA members for locating animals and plants to use in the demonstrations.

For their 800-mile trip east, the Scouts traveled in a blue bus which the Explorer Post had originally donated to a local church. The bus was crammed with the collie, gates, signs, tables, chairs, their cots and camping gear, leaving just enough room for the four FFA members and their advisor/driver.

From Illinois they traveled to Gettysburg, PA; Washington, DC; Mt. Vernon and a stop at the National FFA Center. They had been given some financial help from Crow's Hybrid Seed Company in order to make the trip, but basically they raised all of their support locally.

Scouts at the Jamboree stayed in ten-man squad tents. They had some surprise excitement early in the week when the aftermath of hurricane Bob came through the camp. Also the Scouts were entertained by the Beach Boys and the Oak Ridge Boys during opening sessions of the Jamboree.

One special reaction from Advisor Focken was the many FFA members they "uncovered" who were also Scouts from all over the nation. FFA members would come up and volunteer, "I'm an FFA member from so and so." Also there seemed to be a high number of former members who are now Scout leaders.

The efforts by the Milford and Jerseyville FFA members helped promote agriculture and FFA among the Boy Scout movement in our country. •••

The six-hole mini-golf course was a popular attraction and many Scouts stopped along Merit Badge Midway to try their hand at golf and then to answer the farm management questions.

Mike Cummings taught the farm management badge using the computers the FFA/Scouts brought with them.

FFA Banquet, Then and Now

WHERE does the time go? It's an enemy.

I closed my eyes briefly the other night while attending the annual local East Preston FFA parent-student banquet in Terra Alta, West Virginia, and suddenly I was the one reciting the creed, I was the one delivering the speech, I was the one handing out the Honorary Chapter Farmer degrees to the people who were, to my way of thinking back then, a lot older than I.

Yes, I was even the lucky devil who, one year, got to hand the bouquet of roses to the chapter sweetheart and then give her a big smooch.

I remembered introducing my mom and dad, just as those members did Friday night: "My name's Bob Teets," I'd say, "and I've brought along my parents, Clem and Ruth Teets." Then I'd turn a little red—it just seemed weird introducing my parents by their first names.

Across the room sat Forrest Pennington, the FFA advisor. He hadn't changed a bit from the time when he had to put up with me when I was his pupil. He still looked like a football player and from what I could remember, his powerful handshake could make you break out in a cold sweat.

And so it evolved that I wasn't sure if I'd been caught in a time warp or not as I sat there watching, listening, applauding with the rest of the group.

As the awards presentations started, I began scribbling the names of the winners on the back of the printed program. And suddenly I flashed back again to a banquet where, while I was handing out trophies, I glanced back to see the editor of the local paper scribbling the names on the back of the program.

I own that newspaper now.

But how could that be?

"Would the officers please join me up front for the presentations of the Honorary Chapter Farmers," President Willie Lantz was saying when I snapped back to the present.

"Oh, yeah," I said to myself, "the Honorary Chapter Farmer routine, I remember that." I began recalling how the other officers and I dreaded that part of the program because we had to memorize a lot of corny-sounding stuff about how we looked to the adults for advice and guidance. Recalled, too, were our efforts at trying to sound official and adult-like in presenting awards to people who were already official adults....

"Mr. Teets?" I heard someone say, and looked up to see a young man standing next to me. "Please follow me," he said, and began making his way toward the front of the room.

"We welcome you into the chapter," one of the officers was saying before I knew it. And then, one by one, each of the remaining officers delivered the lines that I remember from the past.

But something was different this time. "The words!" my brain screamed, "They've changed the words!"

But I was the one who had changed, because, for the first time in my life, the words made real good sense.

I was glad to have recited them many years ago, but on this night, I was honored that they were being said to me.

(Reprinted from the Preston County News *by R. G. Teets)* •••

Chapter Banquet Idea Exchange

MANY chapter officer teams are at work this time of year planning for their year as an officer team. For many chapters, the most important single event during a year is the chapter member banquet (or parent member, or chapter awards banquet, or whatever the name is for it locally).

Here are some ideas your chapter might want to use or borrow to improve or add a new flair to your banquet.

As a program feature at the Douglas, Oregon, banquet, fourteen members gave brief reports about specific activities conducted by the chapter. And at the Memphis, Missouri, banquet, Greenhands made the actual presentations of the proficiency medals to the award winner upper classmen.

The Newberg, Oregon, chapter held their awards potluck in the school cafeteria. This year it was so full of FFA supporters extra tables had to be set up.

Newberg's purpose is to honor the members who excelled in the previous year. Just like in so many other chapters, awards are presented such as Star Greenhand, Star Chapter Farmer and Star Chapter Agribusinessman. The local Kiwanis Club also presents its award to the outstanding member each year. In addition the proficiency award winners are named to recognize work in SOEPs.

The program includes installation of new officers, and a slide presentation to report on the year's activities.

One piece of advice from national officers and state officers who attend many banquets in a year—be certain the slides clearly show the activity, that they are colorful and bright, that the narration goes with the slides, and that you have previewed the slides before the banquet night.

The 48th annual banquet for the DeWitt Central Chapter in Iowa served 271 members and guests with food prepared by the county beef and pork producers. Their speaker was a state FFA officer.

In Elgin, Ohio, the theme of their banquet was "Keep Agriculture Number 1." A rustic barn scene was erected as a special stage setting. Arlin Parks, president, was master of ceremonies and Misti Snyder was hostess in charge.

Special Star Member Awards were presented to chapter members at every level—Greenhands received "FFA Member Lives Here" signs; sophomores received U.S. flag lapel pins; juniors received FFA t-shirts; and seniors received FFA caps.

At the Rainer, Oregon, banquet they took advantage of local talent and invited Vicki Horn to be on the program with her state convention winning comedy act imitating Lily Tomlin.

Other tips or advice from banquet goers is to be certain actual sponsors are clearly recognized. And if they are local sponsors vs. National FFA Foundation sponsors, be certain it is clear.

If you have better ideas to share or more ideas why not send them to Banquet Ideas, National FFA Magazine, Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. Or use the Ag Ed Network and Stargram address FF 100A.

Whatever you do, work to help make your chapter banquet a success. •••

"This bookkeeping program was especially developed for the farmer—there is no 'profit' column built in it."

Connection

(Continued from Page 38)

Angeles was very exciting because our tour bus caught fire," said student Masato Kawakami, "A fire truck came out to put out the fire. All of us took pictures!"

Mr. Matsumoto says that the experience program "opens the student's eyes to the world around them," and helps improve their English, a language important for getting into the university back home. The United States is recognized in Japan as the world's most agriculturally developed country, and his students hope to learn a great deal during their stay.

First Impressions

What do the students see once they're here? The most striking impression is of the sheer scale of American farming. "I thought I was dreaming," explained Yoshihiro Kusakabe. "The cattle were Holstein, like most dairies in Japan, but they were much larger, and also had longer legs."

Where the average Mount Horeb dairy runs about 250 acres and grows most of its own feed, a Japanese dairy may only occupy several acres and will buy all of its feed. Land is very expensive in Japan, and not much of it comes up for sale.

The Japanese students are also struck by how hard the American farm family works. In Japan, it is unusual for students to work on the family farm while they are still in school.

The Mount Horeb FFA Chapter and Alumni, a notoriously hospitable group, threw a small picnic for their visitors. Nothing big, just chicken barbecue for about 250 friends, neighbors and honored guests. Softball and volleyball followed as the Japanese students found out just how strongly their American counterparts feel about their leisure time.

Lasting Impressions

The Japanese-Mount Horeb connection has proven so successful that students now enroll at Tajima Agricultural School partly for a chance to participate in the program. Mr. Nishida, Tajima's principal, accompanied the group in 1984 and attended the State Presidents' Conference in Washington, D.C. where he met Secretary of Agriculture John Block. The ties between the two schools have grown stronger every year.

The future looks bright for continued cooperation between the people of Mount Horeb and the students of Tajima. Each year they get to know one another a little bit better, understand each other a little more, and appreciate that they have much in common and even more to share. As Mr. Matsumoto says, "We are starting to *believe* in each other."

For people whose cultural roots are worlds apart, that's not bad. Not bad at all. •••

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Computers in Agriculture award winners: left to right, Mr. Richard Weening, president AgriData Resources, Inc.; Jeff Need, Indiana; Mike Vincent, Colorado; Steve Cameron, Ohio; Larry Sanders, California; and Randy Hall, Virginia, Dr. Larry Case, National FFA Advisor.

FFA's High Tech Awards

Home computers aren't just for games, anymore. Thirty-seven FFA members have put their micros to work in the fields of agriculture and have earned national recognition while doing it.

It's 1985. Do you know a bit from a byte yet? Can you now distinguish a floppy drive from a hard disk? How about modems? When was the last time you telecommunicated?

Beam me up, Scotty.

If you can speak and understand this lingo, you would have been right at home at the National FFA Computers In Agriculture Seminar. The five-day, expense-paid conference, held August 13-17 outside Washington, D.C., brought together 37 state winners in the FFA's computer awards program.

"The purpose of the seminar was to bring FFA members in contact with the cutting edge of computer technology and its application in agriculture," said Dwight Horkheimer, FFA computer specialist and conference coordinator. "These award winners were exposed to the latest in agricultural software systems and telecommunications, and met with top computer leaders from industry and education."

The seminar also provided the setting for recognizing the national winners in the Computers In Agriculture award program. Thirty-seven student projects and activities were ranked by a panel of six judges.

State computer winners put some agricultural software through its paces.

Richard Weening, president of AgriData Resources, sponsor of the seminar, made the award presentations during the Friday afternoon banquet in the Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

Accepting their plaques and honors were: first-place winner, Stephen M. Cameron from Defiance, Ohio; second-place winner, Larry Sanders from Santa Maria, California; third-place winner, Michael Vincent from Las Animas, Colorado; fourth-place winner, Randy Hall from Staunton, Virginia; and fifth-place winner, Jeff Allen Need from Frankfort, Indiana.

National winner, Steve Cameron, had developed a series of sheep management programs for use in his supervised occupational experience project. The software covered management, decision aids and record keeping.

One of his more interesting projects involved work that Steve was doing in robotics. He had designed and built an artificial limb for a neighbor who had lost a leg in a corn picker. Steve was now working to activate the limb through robotics.

The second annual National Computers in Agriculture Seminar was sponsored by AgriData Resources, Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Computer hardware and software was provided courtesy of Apple Computer, Control Data Corporation, Harris Technical Systems, Radio Shack and the Association of Agricultural Computing Companies.

If you are just coming up to speed in computer literacy, take heart. You're just in time. Currently, 65 percent of the nation's vo-ag departments have access to computers at school. This year that number is expected to jump to 85 percent.

Here's your chance to get in on a national trend. Pick up an application for next year's Computers In Agriculture Program from your advisor.

Mr. Sulu, take us up to warp 5! •••

FFA Starts New Computer Service

At its July meeting, the FFA Board of Directors approved the creation of a new Agriculture Computer Education Service. Debuting this fall, the service will operate through the FFA Supply Service.

The membership service will be offered for an annual subscription fee. Although nonmembers may participate, they will not receive all of the services available to members, including: software reviews by vo-ag teachers; options to preview selections from a large library of software; receipt of a periodic newsletter; and discounts of 10 to 50 percent off the retail price of software.

The Agriculture Computer Education Service is geared toward the vocational agriculture instructor. One membership will serve a single ag department.

For more information, contact Dwight Horkheimer at the National FFA Center.

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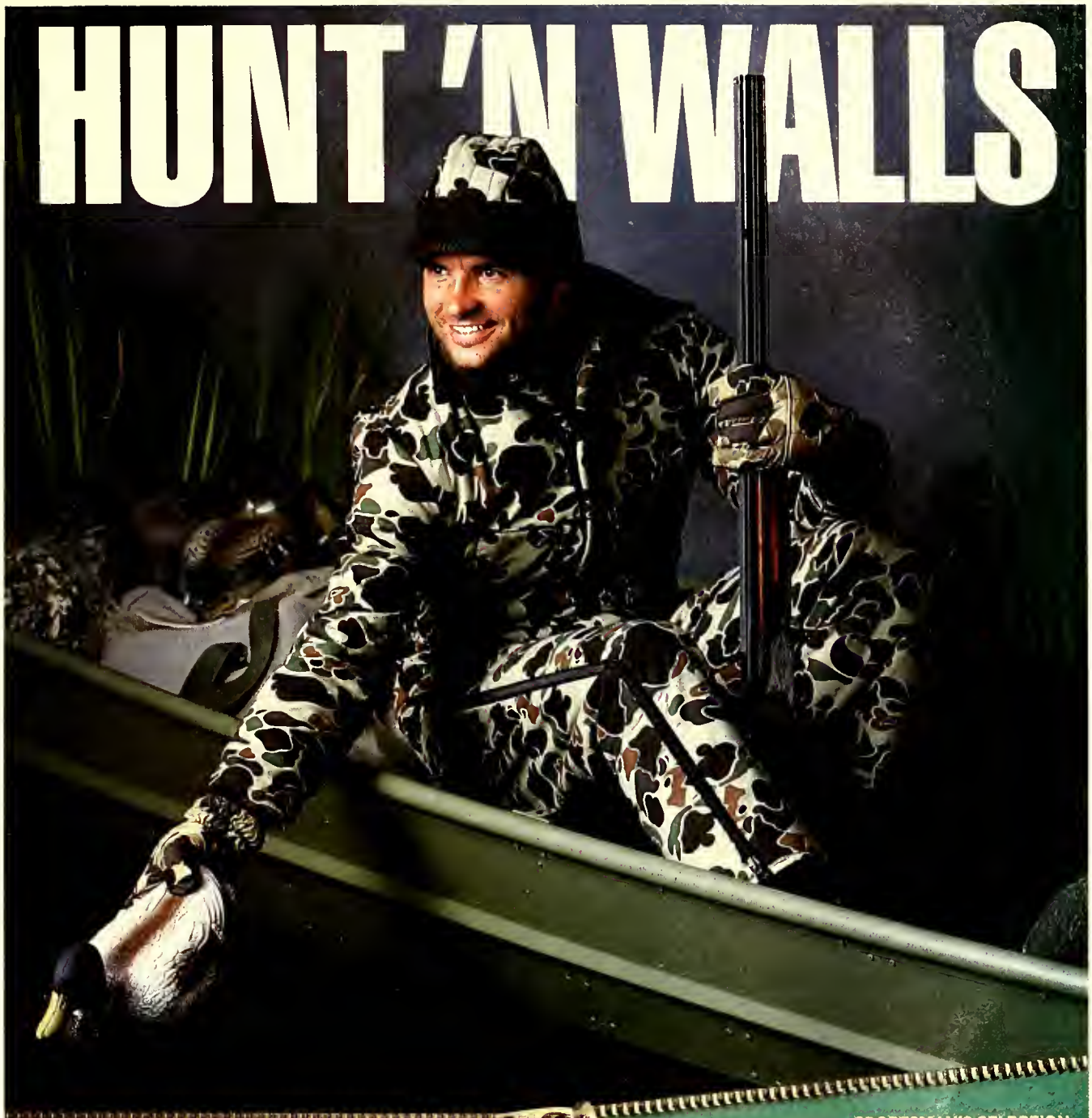

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"Carry the Banner!"

By Bill Stagg

This year's State Presidents' Conference brought together the newly elected leadership of the state associations for their first time. It was an occassion for learning, for sharing, and for accepting a special challenge.

"First of all, they're goal-oriented. Most decided a number of months ago—some even a few years ago—that they would like to serve this organization at the highest level they possibly could."

STEVE Meredith, national FFA president, chooses his words carefully as he tries to capture the essence of the men and women who wear the blue and gold state association jackets.

"They're dedicated and disciplined, otherwise they wouldn't have achieved what they have, because it does take some discipline to get to that point of being a state officer."

During the week of July 22-26, more than a hundred officers from 51 state FFA associations came together in the nation's capital for a week of orientations, meetings with federal officials, and a chance to learn from one another.

Photo by Author

Secretary Block willingly fielded questions from state FFA officers during their visit at USDA in Washington.

"Carry the Banner" was the theme chosen by the national FFA officers for the week in Washington, D.C. It was especially appropriate.

"The theme was presented to this officer team by Secretary of Agriculture Block," said Meredith. "He suggested—or challenged us—to carry the banner for agriculture and for the FFA organization. I think it's a very good challenge because it reflects the fact that we are the future generation of this agriculture industry, we are the future leaders of this country at the rural, urban and national levels. We must carry the banner for this industry, for this nation, and of course, for this organization."

Sponsored once again by Chevrolet as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, the State Presidents' Conference offered the new leaders a rare opportunity. Most had only recently been elected to office in their state associations, some just days before.

A tour of the FFA Center in Alexandria and question-and-answer sessions with national staff allowed the officers to get close to the inner workings of their organization. Presentations by the national officers filled them in on some of the handier ways to deal with such program and service departments as Contests and Awards, International, Information, Magazine and Supply Service.

Tuesday evening was the time to kick back and relax. To

A Meeting With the Secretary

During the State Presidents' Conference visit to USDA, Secretary of Agriculture John Block spoke candidly about agriculture. Here are a few of his remarks.

"THE more government gets into it, frankly, the more problems we are likely to create. The best thing we can do is gradually back away from trying to dominate agriculture and give agriculture its own head so that agriculture can go forward under a system where market pricing is the way prices are determined."

"Now, of course, there are those who will say that if you lower the supports to become competitive it's going to force more and more farmers off the land. I'll just say that the farm program that's being worked on provides for very generous farm support payments. The transition will be gentle, compassionate, and the federal government will be spending quite a large amount of money on agriculture in this transition period and it won't be anything like pulling the rug out."

"The fact is we've got some real fundamental problems facing us. The deficit in the budget, to some extent, impacts the interest rates, and I would say probably keeps them high. The budget deficit, in some way, impacts the strength of the dollar compared to other currencies. Washington has not been able to come to grips with getting control of this budget and bringing down the spending in government."

"But you can't force feed, grain and farm products into the hands of these other countries if we aren't competitive in price. They're just not going to buy it. We have to be competitive. And that's why two things have to happen. The dollar-currency relationship has to change so that we're competitive, or, we have to lower our pricing structure in the United States. That's just the way business is done."

"I guess I'm just telling you that the forces that are driving us are bigger than the both of us. It's going to take an effort on the part of the whole government—the congress, the executive branch—and the people of the country demanding that we make some real reforms."

the great delight of everyone, the Maryland and FFA Center Alumni threw an outdoor cookout with steaks, potato salad and soft drinks. Casual attire prevailed on the "back forty" of the FFA Center grounds as the group swapped stories and addresses.

Capitol Hill Beckons

A congressional luncheon hosted by FFA provided a chance to share a meal with Representatives, Senators and congressional aides. Larry Combest, Congressman from Texas, addressed the group, as did Tom Stout, marketing manager for Chevrolet.

Following the luncheon, the state officers went to visit the offices of their respective congressional representatives. In the one-on-one exchanges that took place, strong impressions were made on the nation's lawmakers of who the Future Farmers are and what they represent.

"The main reason they went to see Congressmen and Senators was because so many of them up there in Congress don't understand vocational agriculture and the FFA," explained national Vice-President Graham Boyd. "A lot of them support it, but you can always increase that support."

To take their case to the man who speaks most authoritatively for American agriculture, the state presidents boarded the buses early Thursday morning for a scheduled visit with Secretary of Agriculture John Block.

Seated in the sunlit atrium of the Department of Agriculture, the group listened intently as the Secretary spoke candidly about the current state of affairs in agriculture.

A Presidential Send-Off

Following the reception at USDA, the officers headed for the White House for a special visit with President and Mrs. Reagan. Originally the conference group was scheduled for the traditional Rose Garden reception with the president, but that was cancelled when President Reagan's surgery prevented him from receiving the group. What took its place, however, was possibly more exciting.

The state officers were invited to a special send-off for the president as he and Mrs. Reagan left by helicopter for Camp David. After clearing security at the gates, the group was led to the Rose Garden to await the president's appearance on the South Lawn.

In the hot July sun, they waited and watched as police helicopters circled the area and security tightened. Special equipment was brought out to the lawn for the White House air traffic controller to direct the landing of the presidential helicopter. Before it landed, a rush of some 100 newsmen and camera crews swarmed onto the South Lawn behind the cordoned-off press area.

Suddenly, out stepped the casually dressed President and Mrs. Reagan from the White House, walking close by the state officer gallery, smiling and waving. In his hand, the president was carrying a blue corduroy FFA cap that had been presented to him earlier inside the White House as a gift from the FFA. He carried the hat to the helicopter, turned, waved it in the air and then put it on. Embroidered on the front of the cap was the FFA emblem and the words "Mr. President." Another smile to the news cameras, a wave to the state officers, and the helicopter roared off, spiriting away the President of the United States sporting his one-of-a kind blue and gold FFA cap.

The officers were pleased.

"They all have a great deal of interest in serving this organization. They're futuristic thinkers; they think about the future of agriculture rather than spending a lot of time dwelling on the problems we have now. They recognize those problems, but they're excited about the opportunities we have.

"They're a group of people who believe in what lies ahead. They're preparing for the future and they're helping to prepare others."

Steve Meredith chooses his words carefully. •••

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The American Advantage

By Dennis Reyerson

The Soviet Union farms more land using more labor and yet the American farmer consistently outproduces his Soviet counterpart. Is it luck, or something more?

Map by Dennis Reyerson

The approximate global position of the U.S. compared to the U.S.S.R.. The more southern latitude gives the U.S. a climate advantage in agriculture.

You would think that a country the size of the Soviet Union would be a net exporter of agriculture products, but it's not. Russia's agriculture production is 80 percent that of the U.S. even though they farm 45 percent more land with 50 percent more labor. Their labor-intensive farming would compare to U.S. agriculture 25 years ago. Soviet farmers do not have the technology and improved methods of the U.S., but to say those are the only reasons for their lower yields would not be fair to the Russian farmer. A close look at their geography reveals why.

The Soviet Union is the largest country in the world, but much of its land lies north of the 49th parallel and this means a cooler, dryer climate. In the south the temperatures are warm enough for crops, but it's too dry. Northern Russia is too cold and heavily forested. Only about one percent of the Soviet Union receives an average annual precipitation of 29 inches or more, compared to 60 percent of the U.S. In the Ukraine, the Soviets' most productive agriculture region, lies a long belt of prairie and chernozem soil, the same as in the U.S. corn belt. The July temperature in the southern Ukrainian city of Kiev averages 68 degrees, but their average annual precipitation is only 22 inches. That's very similar to Winnepeg, Canada. North Dakota and Montana farmers know how difficult it is to grow corn in this type of climate.

To be considered arid, an area must receive an average of less than 17 inches of precipitation yearly. In the U.S., the semi-arid and arid regions are west of the 100 degree meridian, a line running from central North Dakota to the southern tip of Texas. Here forced irrigation is a common practice due to infrequent and insufficient rains. Approximately 11 percent of the arable lands of the U.S. are in this region.

The Soviet Union has about 40 percent of their arable lands in areas that receive 17 inches or less of precipitation yearly. Over two thirds of their grain crops experience a severe drought every three years. Russian agricultural officials estimate that, over all, only one out of every three or four years is considered favorable for crops.

In addition to not enough moisture, their long winters and cool summers create a short growing season. Of all Soviet lands suitable for cropping, about 60 percent have an annual temperature less than 41 degrees. In the U.S., it's 10 percent. The average yearly temperature in northern Illinois is about 49 degrees, and in Lincoln, Nebraska it's 51 degrees. These few degrees may not seem like much, but they mean the summers in Lincoln are longer and warmer.

The combination of sufficient moisture and a longer, warmer growing season gives the U.S. farmer an advantage the Soviet farmer has never had. Many agriculture experts believe that the Soviet Union will never equal or pass the U.S.

(Continued on Page 63)

Where the American farmer enjoys relatively consistent yields, over two-thirds of Soviet grain crops experience a severe drought every three years.

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Yeah, my Dad sure knows his seed corn. Too bad he doesn't pick his baseball teams the same way.

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A new vo-ag instructor for a new vo-ag high school.

Chicago's First Vo-Ag School

By Michael Wilson

FARMERS are proud of their ability to make their land produce in abundance. But one midwestern farm is now producing something much more valuable than corn or soybeans or cattle. It's growing young agricultural leaders for the future.

The "Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences," located on an old farm on the southwest side of the nation's second-largest city, has captured the attention of ag education and industry leaders who are concerned by a potential "brain drain" in agricultural training.

The high school is appropriately built on a 72-acre plot, which local citizens refer to as Chicago's last farm. The ag science program has been called one of the most exciting new ideas in vocational education: for one thing, its non-"production ag" curriculum is further evidence of increasing emphasis on high-skill, high-tech agricultural training. In addition, the school's students are from urban backgrounds, continuing the trend of vocational agriculture education in non-rural areas.

The school opened in early September with 140 freshmen students and will add an additional class of that size each year.

During the students' first two years, studies encompass broad, exploratory areas, from agricultural mechanics and career counseling to marketing. In the final two years, specialization will be in one of four areas; agribusiness, food science, agricultural technology and horticulture. Some students with special interests can build an independent study in any agriculture-related field.

Dr. Ellen Summerfield is the principal working to bring agricultural education to Chicago area students.

Garry Raymond, the school's master teacher, has the responsibility of coordinating the newly-established teaching staff, which includes three vo-ag teachers.

"It's a concept that's time has come," says the seven-year vo-ag teacher from Hampshire, Illinois. "Urban agriculture is something that's very necessary. It's generating a lot of support from around the nation."

Mr. Raymond says school planners studied other urban vocational agriculture programs, such as those at Philadelphia, New York and Miami. Experts at the University of Illinois College of Agriculture helped develop the school's curriculum.

Students who successfully complete four years of course work will qualify for several options: to enter the work force, enter a community college, or enter a two or four-year university program to study agriculture.

"We're trying to determine how we can best meet the needs of the Chicago agriculture population," says Mr. Raymond. Chicago and Minneapolis, for example, are considered hubs of the nation's food science industry.

To be eligible, eighth-grade students had to have achieved test scores at or above grade level in reading and mathematics; have good academic and attendance records in seventh and eighth grades; and have an interest in agricultural sciences, says Dr. Ellen Summerfield, the school's principal.

The final requirement, an interest in agricultural sciences, is what makes this school different from others, says Mr. Raymond. While other subjects such as English, science and math are also taught at the school, its primary function is to teach agriculture.

"This is what we call a 'magnet' school, one that specializes in a specific area," explains Mr. Raymond.

The Last Farm

The new agricultural science program didn't appear overnight, though. It took lots of work—and convincing—on the part of concerned local citizens who wanted to see "Chicago's Last Farm" turned into something useful for the surrounding Mount Greenwood community. Many wanted the farm preserved.

And so the battle over what to do with the farm began in 1980, when the owners, the Chicago Board of Education, proposed sale of the land. After much debate, a petition with 9,000 signatures and heated letters in local newspapers, the board was convinced that preserving the farm and opening the new school would be best for everyone.

Fortunately, the decision was made easier by the fact that the farmland already had a school building on the grounds. "We plan to take sections of land each year and develop a nursery, a three-hole golf course and eventually a grain and livestock facility," he says. "We also plan to leave a large amount in fruit and vegetable production. Eventually we'll open up a section for student plots, where each student maintains an area and is responsible for plant growth and profit." In addition, the seven agricultural classrooms will have access to a greenhouse for horticulture and floriculture classes. A 3,000-square-foot greenhouse will be completed by November of this year and other building will follow.

FFA: Providing Diversity

The school will also be one of the newest Future Farmers of America chapters. Mr. Raymond hopes the goal-setting activities of FFA will be another motivating factor behind his students' ag training.

"Agriculture is changing," he says. "It must change to keep up. This school will address those new changes—it will be on the leading edge of technology. •••

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The length of a stake rope around the chuck wagon belongs to the cook. And you don't ride your horse into his circle. It's a serious rule you break at your own risk.

The cook's short fuse is legend. He has reason. Up two hours before the hands. Cook with dried cow chips. Clean, load, hitch, move out ahead, then do it all again. He's where "touchy as a camp cook" came from.

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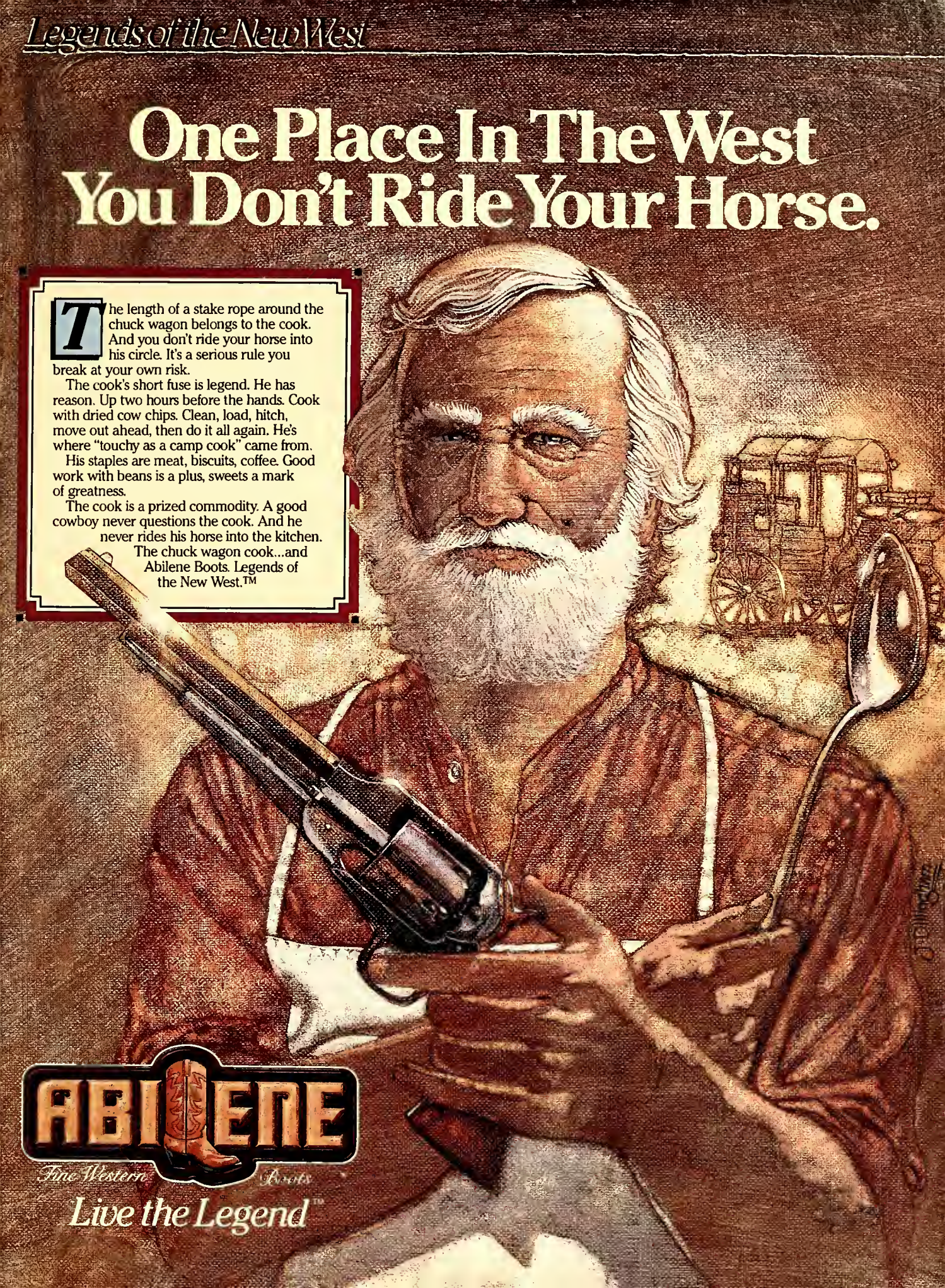

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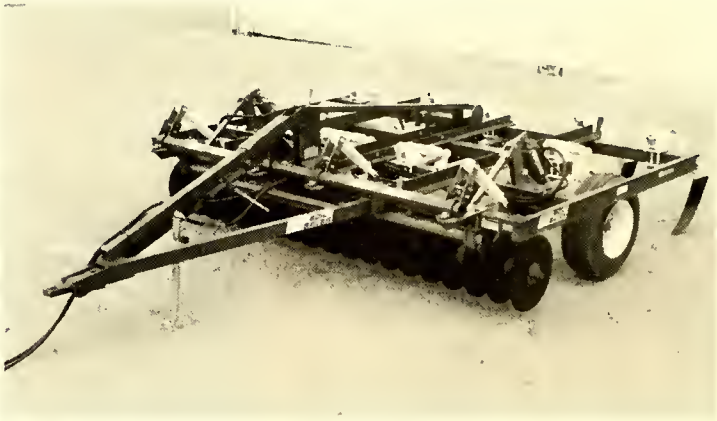
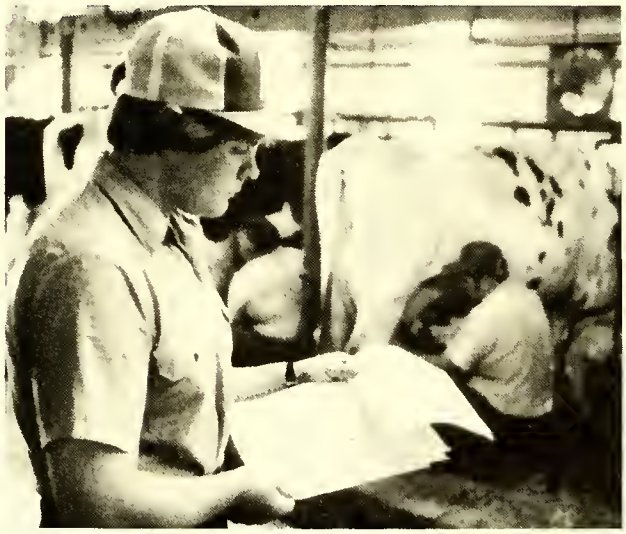
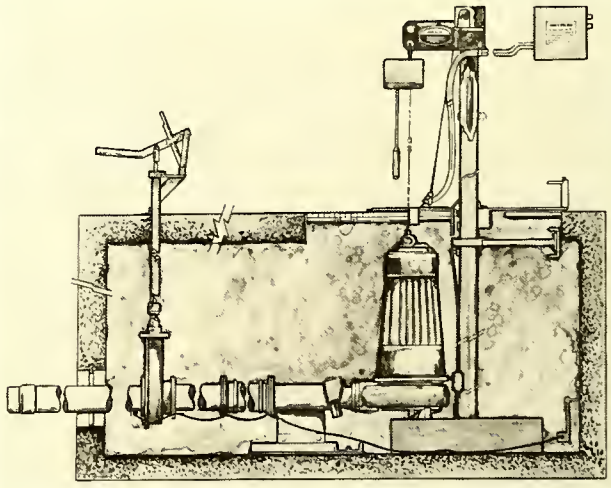
Easy, on-the-go slicer gang adjustment is now available on Glencoe Soil Savers. Features of the new gang adjuster include adjustment up to 10-inches above the ground tool, choice of hydraulic or ratchet jack adjustment, easy installation, 3½-inch diameter heavy wall tubing pivot shaft and greaseable bearings. Available as optional equipment for all new and existing standard and stretch 7, 9, 11 and 13 shank Glencoe Soil Savers, Portable Elevator Division, 920 East Grove St., Bloomington, IL 61702.





Left, DairyTRACK, a computerized dairy herd management system for on-farm use, has been introduced by Control Data Corporation's Agricultural Products and Services Division. The system maintains accurate individual cow and herd records for production, reproduction, health and management. DairyTRACK also produces barn sheets so producers can track and record events such as heat checks, breedings, preg checks, freshenings and vet checks. It runs on the IBM PC and compatible computers and is available for dual floppy or hard disk systems. Their address is 1450 Energy Park Dr., Box 26, St. Paul MN 55108.

A new feeder/mixer wagon, the Ag-Bag Auger Blender, that features six areas of mixing action has been added to the line of forage machines by Ag-Bag Corporation, Astoria, OR 97103. The new wagons come in a 190-bushel, 260-bushel and 320-bushel capacity. An optional Eaton scale is available for weighing feeds in and out.



The Nepture Hi-Pro submersible pump from A. O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc. is part of a complete reception pit system for liquid manure. For top efficiency, the pump can be moved to serve more than one pit. Powered by 20 h.p. motor, the 550-pound pump can move up to 1,000 g.p.m. of liquid manure. The pump is available in two versions, including one for 6- to 8-feet deep pits and one for up to 10-feet pits.

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News, Notes, and Nonsense from Everywhere

Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

Activities to get the chapter off to a good start this fall in *Glidden,* IA, include repairing and painting the road sign in town, planning a breakfast for teachers and conducting a slave auction to raise money.

N-N-N

In *East Butler,* NE, the FFA is hosting an administration welcome party for the start of school.

N-N-N

Thomas, OK, organizes a hamburger fry for parents, teachers, FFA supporters and the members of the chapter.

N-N-N

All students signed up for vo-ag classes in the fall are invited to a volleyball game and watermelon feed during the summer in *Zillah,* WA. It's free and held at the ag building. Lots of former members and alumni stop by too.

N-N-N

New Sharon, IA, uses a watermelon feed also to welcome members back after the busy summer.

N-N-N

North Harrison, MO, FFA had a river party this summer—fishing, swimming and a cookout.

N-N-N

Five *Buffalo,* MO, members have "cleaned up" the dairy shows this summer with all sorts of grand championships.

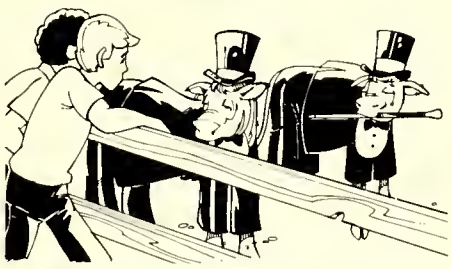
N-N-N

The *Carey,* OH, summer chicken barbecue features poultry raised by the chapter in feed trials earlier in the year.

N-N-N

The FFA in *Groton,* SD, presented a farm safety program and operated an animal nursery during their town's 33rd annual summer festival.

N-N-N



Willard, OH, FFA members took a field trip to Sandusky Dressed Beef as part of their beef production courses.

N-N-N

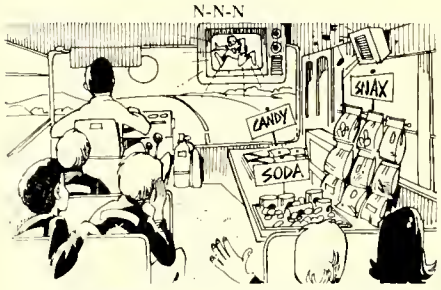
When **Jimmy Sill** and **David Imhoff** returned to *Stroud,* OK, after their trip to the Washinton Leadership Conference, they gave a 30-minute slide presentation to the local Lions Club about the experience.

N-N-N

Two spring graduates of the *Killingly,* CT, Chapter were elected to state—**Tom Hagett** is treasurer and **Ron Kneeland** is sentinel.

Triway, OH, FFA in Wooster invited a state highway partolman to speak at the June chapter meeting. His talk included an explanation of how the radar and the computer help with his work.

N-N-N



The *Zillah,* WA, Chapter chartered a luxury bus to go see the Mariners play the Detroit Tigers.

N-N-N

Warren Boerger, president of the *Fairbanks,* OH, Chapter was elected chief justice at Boys State. With that familiar sounding name it was almost a natural—not withstandng his leadership experiences in FFA.

N-N-N

Rubidoux, CA, Chapter served teachers lunch the day after the chapter banquet with additional food from the banquet.

N-N-N

Cherryvale, KS, FFA, FFA Alumni, and 4-H Club joined forces and painted the city park's fair barn. The job had not been done since 1971.

N-N-N

A program feature for an *Anthony Wayne,* OH, Chapter meeting was a demonstration by linemen from the local electric company about safety with electricity and downed lines.

N-N-N

Cheryl Lantis and **Reena Nash** had to raise $1,500 to attend the FFA Washington, DC, Leadership Conference program from their *Zillah,* WA Chapter. They held a rummage sale at a local shopping center and offered to do jobs for members and alumni.

N-N-N

The *Kimball,* MN, FFA constructed a crops display with 61 different crops from their school.

N-N-N

Ernest Cummings is reporter for the *Logan,* NM, Chapter and found a great way to get experience practicing an FFA speech or Creed presentation. Since his mom is a elementary school teacher, he was enlisted to help her. So when he was "on duty" he wore official dress and gave his presentation to her class.

N-N-N

Tina Cox is chairman of the *Spartanburg,* SC, BOAC committee. They developed a plan to make their county residents aware of the importance of agriculture to their economy.

The chapter newsletter for the *Conner,* KY, Chapter offers openings for participating members on the leadership and conduct of meetings committees.

N-N-N

The summer newletter for *Mansfield,* TX, FFA suggested members who want a new FFA jacket should get their order in and avoid the fall rush.

N-N-N

The *Morris,* OK, Chapter will publish a monthly newsletter called Chapter Chats. **Tony Sprouse** will be editor with a staff of **DeeDee Todd,** assistant and reporter: **Deke Wise,** photographer and **Luke Abbott,** reporter.

N-N-N

Southampton, VA, FFA is boasting an increase in vo-ag enrollment for the second year in a row.

N-N-N

The *Elsinor,* CA, Chapter awarded 110%—yes 110%—plaques to members who had gone the extra mile for FFA Chapter.

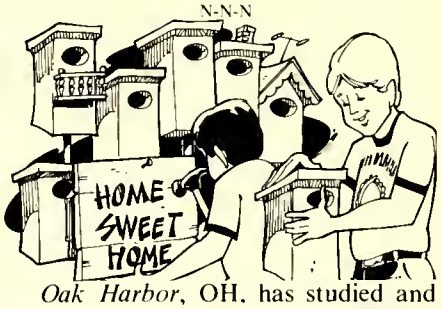
N-N-N

FFA Alumni helped finance the lodging and transportation for the *Omro,* WI, awards trip to a research farm, the American Breeders Service and the *Hoards Dairyman* magazine.

N-N-N

Jennifer Hyden, a fan and writer of country music and member of the *Waller,* TX, Chapter, is also country music reporter for the local newspaper.

N-N-N



Oak Harbor, OH, has studied and learned to build homey and welcome nests for the wildlife at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

N-N-N

Your chapter ought to have a news item in this column sometime during the year. If the reporter doesn't get around to it, how about you? Send in the unusual and successful chapter ideas. Also you may wish to send the news item via the Ag Ed Network on Stargram address FF100A. (If your school or vo-ag department is not a subscriber to the Ag Ed computer Network, have your advisor check into it. The FFA provides News updates on the Network along with Lessons for classroom use and the option to send orders instantly to the Supply Service via the Network. Requests may be sent to the National FFA Center.)

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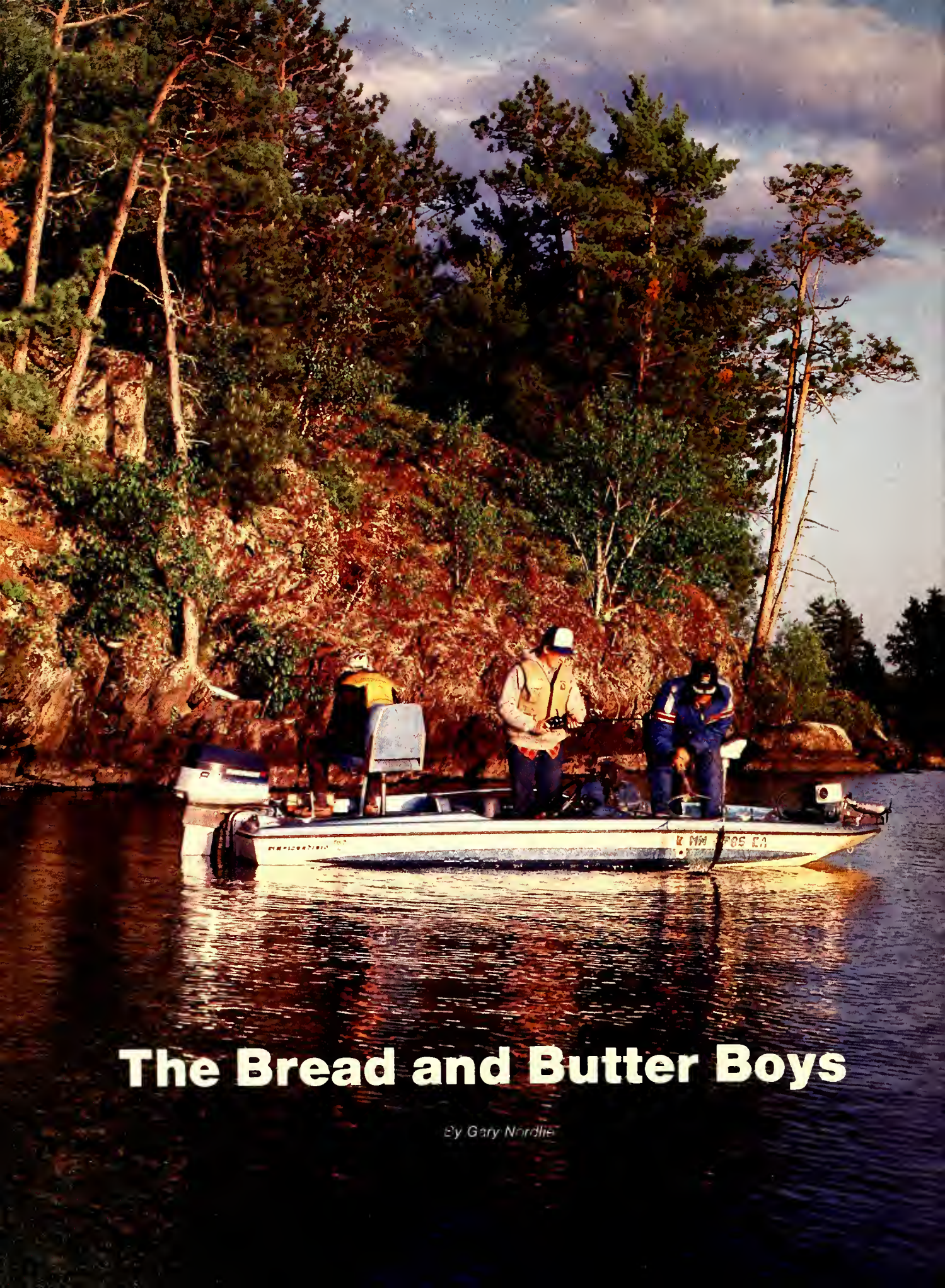

The Bread and Butter Boys

By Gary Nordlie

When two teachers take four students on a fishing trip, there's never a dull moment.

LIKE a lot of good ideas, its conception was hard to trace. But I think it basically evolved from a campfire conversation Lee Mendenhall and I had one moonlit night while camped on an island on Lake Namakan on the Minnesota-Ontario border.

"You know," Lee remarked, "it's too bad the students we teach everyday can't get a chance to see and experience this."

It was early June. Both Lee and I had just finished up a nine-month teaching stint.

The topic came up again later during vacation when Lee had a plan hammered out somewhat.

"Here's how it's gonna work, Nord," Lee said enthusiastically. Lee, incidentally, teaches vocational agriculture at New Richland and I teach English and speech. "I'm going to set up a point system based on the students' performance in my vo-ag/FFA class."

"Based on what kind of performance?" I asked.

"Things like class attendance, offices held, fruit sales ($850 this year). I'll give points for home projects, fair exhibits and contest participation. They can participate in dairy judging, crop shows, meats identification, cow clipping contests...."

"I'm going to take the top point-getter from each class, grades 9 through 12, and award them a grand prize. Do you know what the grand prize is this year?"

I couldn't wait.

"An all-expense-paid five-day fishing trip to Lake Namakan. They'll get to fish out of new boats run by professional guides and stay in a real log cabin."

"Who are these pros?"

"You and me! We'll even pay your expenses." Lee had it figured out all right.

"Hey! I generally get big bucks for providing that kind of guide service—what makes you think I'll do it for expenses?"

"Because deep down, you know it's gonna be lots of laughs."

He had that right!

This year's winners were a diverse bunch. Senior Joe Jones was on his third trip. Suffice it to say, he's hyperactive—he fell in the lake twice in the first half hour.

Paul Hendrickson, the eleventh grader, is as laid back as Jones is hyper. I couldn't help but smile when I thought about how their personalities would reflect the way they fished. I could see Jones churning the water to a froth with fast moving cranks and buzzers ripping the surface, while Paul would be content to soak a worm.

Kyle Wakefield, the sophomore, is on his second trip. His hat's inscription relates "Farming is everybody's bread and butter."

The youngest member is Dennis Nelson, a ninth grader. Dennis sat through an entire year of my eighth-grade English class without saying more than four words. So far on the trip, he started talking in my driveway and he hasn't stopped since.

The trip started at 3:00 a.m. when everyone met at my place. We got the operation on the road; two vehicles, two boats, four high school students and two older ones.

Our destination is Lake Namakan, one link in the chain of lakes that make up the Voyageur's National Park on the Minnesota-Ontario border.

Once through customs, we have a 45-minute boat trip through a maze of rock and pine islands that, to the uninstructed, all look the same.

After 15 minutes of sliding between islands, the ninth grader asked the obvious.

"How do you know where you're going?"

"I don't. Once I wandered around lost up here for three days before I got out," I replied.

His eyes widened some and he made a quick check of my face to see if I was fooling him. I don't know if he believed me or not, but he began paying a lot more attention to landmarks.

Our place at Berger's Trading Post is known on the roster simply as "The Big Cabin." It sleeps a bunch. Nothing fancy, just an old log cabin—no electricity, no hot water, but what it does have is a gorgeous view and a big kitchen with windows on two sides, a woodburner and an outhouse.

With lunch; from left, back row, Dennis Nelson and Kyle Wakefield; front row, Paul Hendrickson and Joe Jones.

If you really want to feel old sometime, take some students fishing. At ten o'clock the first night they showed no signs of wearing down, but finally, when fireside chatter turned to pork bellies and bean futures, I left for bed. This year Lee and I made new rules: no boom boxes or radios, only "Walkmen" with headsets and no talking or joke-telling anywhere near Mr. Mendenhall's or Mr. Nordlie's sleeping quarters.

Day two was a big day. Lee and I wanted to get the members on fish as soon as possible, because nothing increases the attention span like catching fish. It's early June, and lots of walleyes will be congregating in the shallow weed beds and protected bays that, for some reason, most fishermen overlook. We'll drag live-bait rigs off the reefs in deep water if we have to, but shallow-water walleyes and smallies will provide more excitement.

The fish were here and actively taking crankbaits. What we were fishing was actually a lake within a lake; a small, weedy bay off the main lake with scattered cabbage and junk weed and a maximum depth of five feet. In northern lakes these areas can hold walleyes all summer and this time of year the weeds are down enough to run a crank right over the tops of them. These weed walleyes are very active and, even in cold, early June water, will take a crankbait as fast as you can retrieve it.

Even after 17 years in the teaching business, I'm still amazed at how quickly students can adapt to a new situation. The first day they were hopeless. They couldn't cast and didn't know how to work their lures or how to net fish. Tying the boat to the dock was a 15-minute ordeal that sorely tried my patience. But education, whether in the classroom or the real world, only happens when the student wants it to. And when someone else is catching fish and someone isn't, all of a sudden the will to learn is there.

By the end of the fourth day, the FFA members were becoming more proficient fishermen. All they needed was someone to remind them what to do—constantly, like when they started getting sloppy handling the fish. Sometimes it seemed as though somebody had a fish on all the time and, after a while, the fishermen got lax. They started hauling the fish over the boat side and reaching for their lines about a foot up from the lure. It was time for today's lesson.

"You clowns better start paying attention to what you're doing there. That

(Continued on Page 56)

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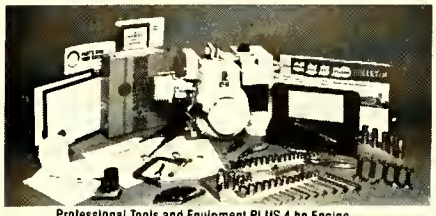

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Fishing Trip

(Continued from Page 55)

fish gives a good hard shake and that crank's going to come out of his mouth like a rocket right into you!"

A half hour later, as I was caught up in the surrounding splendor, I nonchalantly reached over to grab my line and the 1½-pound smallie shook—and you guessed it! The rear treble hook was buried deep in the fat part of my thumb. This one's in so far I can't even budge it!

I've always heard horror stories about embedded hooks and I've read 20 articles on how to remove them, but those articles were always for the "other guy."

Not much of a masochist, I made a half-hearted attempt with the needle-nose pliers, but to no avail. I finally signaled to Lee, who was on the other side of the bay. He had all he could do to keep from laughing when he saw my predicament.

"This mean I get to be doctor?" Lee asked.

"I dunno. What you got for qualifications?"

"My brother's a vet," came the reply.

"Good enough. Start pulling."

It came out!

By night of the third day everybody's into the rhythm of the North. Even Jones is winding down. After dark I went over the hill and built a small driftwood fire and watched the stars. It wasn't five minutes before the brush began cracking and Jones appeared with his rod and reel and his new lure that glows in the dark.

"I'm gonna run down to the point and catch me a walleye," he announced.

"Why don't you walk down and catch them all?" I replied.

The fourth day is off to a roaring start. Somehow my rod tip got under a storage lid and one of the fishermen inadvertently stepped on it. My $37 Zebco graphite is now three inches shorter and the members' vocabulary considerably broadened.

We've burned the walleye areas, but the smallmouth action is good. By cruising rocky shorelines, we're able to take nice two to three-pound smallies. But the fish are just a bonus now as everyone's caught enough and the pace has slowed considerably. Cruising the shoreline is also a great way to catch nature's act. We came upon a beautiful buck deer, his new six-inch antlers covered with velvet. He watched us while the boys worked the electric motor to bring us in close enough for me to get some pictures. Farther down the shore we saw a lone bald eagle single-handedly run eight gulls off a pile of fish guts left by some campers.

Short vivid lessons are the workings of nature—no tests, no worksheets, no lectures—but the students learned.

Shore lunch is usually the highlight of the day. Everybody gets together to play one-upmanship while Lee and I filet fish and get the meal started. Nothing fancy here—walleyes dipped in Old Guide Shore-lunch Mix and fried in butter, plus a few potato chips and beans and that's usually it. Watching our young fishermen plow through the fish and chips makes it hard to believe these are the same guys who make a career out of complaining about school lunch.

"Okay you guys, clean up this mess while I take some action photos for my magazine article."

"You don't need pictures. You just want to get out of the work!" Jones hollered back.

As I said, they're learning.

It's tail-chewing time back at Big Cabin. Someone left the gas light on and it burned all day. I was the one who was on the receiving end of Betty's (the owner of the trading post) diatribe. I relayed the word.

"Okay, listen up. You guys aren't home now. Ma's not up here to run behind you picking up and shutting off lights. That's your responsibility. That cabin light runs off a propane tank and when it's empty, Betty has to haul it from the cabin all the way to Crane Lake and return with a full one. She doesn't need you helping out!"

"But Mr. Nordlie, you musta left it on. You were the last one out. Remember? We were all down at the dock waiting and you came last."

Good thing we're going home tomorrow. They've learned enough!! •••

Memories of sunsets and smallmouths.

PHOTO 1

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See photo number 1

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FFA Necklace

FFA initials in gold plate.

GFA Necklace **$6.75**

PHOTO 2

PHOTO 3

See photo number 2

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(Problem determining size?— See guide on page 11 of the 1985-86 catalog)

See photo number 3

Solar Calculator

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PHOTO 4

See photo number 4

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GT-RL	GOLDTONE RING-LARGE*			41.95	
1005	PEARL PENDANT			8.75	
1002	ID BRACELET			5.50	
	NAME ENGRAVED			1.75	
US	FLAG PINETTE			3.00	
F-1	MEMBER BUTTON			2.50	
F-2	MEMBER TIE TAC			2.75	
HN	HEART NECKLACE			3.95	
HC	HEART CHARM			2.75	
GFA	FFA NECKLACE			6.75	
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FFA in Action

Presidential Training

FFA members across Nebraska had a rare opportunity to meet National FFA President Steve Meredith during January. Steve was touring Nebraska during his national officer experience tour. The objective was to expose Steve to a wide variety of experiences to prepare him for his year as national president.

Activities of the week included a potluck supper and school assembly at Sandhills High School; a noon meal with officers of all vocational student organizations and business persons coffee at Ravenna; a school assembly at Aurora High School; a donkey basketball game at Grand Island Northwest; a visit to Geneva High School and an address to the Geneva Rotary Club; an address to vocational students at Crete High School; and an evening with Lincoln Northeast and area FFA chapter officers.

Steve enjoyed Nebraska's version of basketball and especially his success at the game. He's "big" into basketball and so this was fun.

A meeting with Governor Kerrey and Director of Agriculture Rob Raun highlighted Steve's day in Lincoln. Steve also toured Valmont Industries, WOWT, and met with the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

The weekend was spent at the state FFA Alumni Conference. Steve also participated in the state officers meeting held during the conference. *(From* The Nebraska Future Farmer*)* •••

Family Teamwork

A brother-sister team received top FFA awards at the Connecticut State convention.

Barbara Miller was named the Connecticut Star Farmer and recipient of the FFA Foundation Dairy Production proficiency award. She owns 32 dairy animals which are kept on her family's farm. She is a graduate of the Killingly High School vocational agriculture program and FFA.

Her brother David was named the Connecticut FFA District V Star Farmer for 1985. This is the highest award in production agriculture given in each of the six Connecticut FFA districts. David owns 24 dairy animals and works on the home farm. He has completed three years in Killingly FFA and is active in football and track. *(Dennis Woodworth, Reporter)* •••

A Touching Lesson

The Smithville, Ohio, FFA hosted a petting zoo for a preschool class of children 2-6 years old with learning handicaps. The Smithville FFA members provided animals and assisted in supervision for the two-session petting zoo.

Members participating were: Mindy Dodd, kittens; Tammy Stretch, dog and lamb; Albert Hartzler, goat; Missy Beery, horse; Mike and Dwaine Beery, geese and ducks; Darrell Hostetler, rabbits; Jane Schmucker, pig and chicken; Mark Hatten, goldfish and dog; Brad Miller, goat; Tanalee Stoll, raccoon; and Heidi Miller, calf. *(Mindy Dodd, Reporter)* •••

Hard Work Feels Good

Early to bed, early to rise makes your BOAC project a great big surprise. The Arkansas City, Kansas, Chapter BOAC committee gathered chapter members for a work session in town at the Presbyterian Manor for senior citizens.

Some time ago the community built a Wells Fargo walking exercise track for the citizens of the manor. The track has been in great need of care and upkeep, so the chapter BOAC committee decided to contact the manor for work approval on the project.

Members showed up with riding mowers, push mowers, chain saws, weed eaters and all kinds of other tools. It looked like "Rambo" and his troops heading for the battle against weeds and tall grass. However, after the battle dust cleared and all work was done, we felt the track looked very nice.

While we were working, several of the residents of the manor walked down to see what all the racket was about. They thought it was great as they can again use this very nice facility. The residents of the manor can now get out and limber up on the many exercises which are incorporated into the workout facility.

The chapter plans to keep the area clean and maintained for the community and its users and to build some park benches in shop for the manor. *(Marci Keefe, Reporter)* •••

A Fair Story

The top junior fair market steers at the 1985 Ohio State Fair were exhibited by two Riverdale, Ohio, vocational agriculture students. The fact that they come from the same county makes the occasion rather unique and that they are both students in the same local school may go down in the state fair records as a "first."

The grand champion junior fair market steer was exhibited by Mike Thiel. His 1,255-pound steer was a Maine-Anjou-Angus-Chianina cross and was the winner of the division three class.

The reserve champion junior fair market steer was exhibited by Stephanie Houser. Her 1,270-pound Chianina-Angus steer was the winner of the fourth division of the show.

Mike sold his grand champion for an Ohio State Fair record price of $54,800. Burger King restaurants was the buyer. Stephanie sold her reserve champion steer for a record $10,700. Jackie Lee Restaurant and Entertainment Center of Akron, was the buyer. *(Craig Wiget, Advisor via Ag Ed Network)* •••

FFA Emblem Up In Space

Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka, NASA astronaut, presented to the national organization this emblem which he took in space on January 24-27, 1985. Col. Onizuka was a former FFA member in Hawaii. It was presented Friday, March 1, 1985, in Houston, Texas, to National Vice President Brad Bass. Guest speaker at the ceremony was Vice President and Mrs. George Bush. •••

On the Air

Every morning about 7 a.m. a sleepy-eyed, young lady in an FFA jacket is seen slowly walking down the halls of Dorman High School in Spartanburg, South Carolina. She makes her way to the rear of the school and with a loud crash of music signs on the first high school radio station in South Carolina, WPMO-AM. She is Wanda Pack—the FFA DJ.

Communication and leadership skills have always been an interest to Wanda. As a ninth grader, she won the chapter's creed speaking contest and went on to win the association contest. Her leadership skills were refined by her attendance at the Washington FFA Conference. Wanda was elected chapter reporter during her sophomore year and also started with the Dorman High School Radio Club. (The radio club program at Dorman is the top program of its kind in the state winning top honors each year from the South Carolina Scholastic Broadcasters Association.) Radio club advisor Sid Wheatly started Wanda on the news program, "Cavalier Review," which was aired on a commercial radio station, WKDY-AM, in Spartanburg.

From that small start, Wanda has progressed to working the morning show and a full news and special feature

Wanda was given a special chapter star award for her efforts in agricultural communications.

section each week on the FFA for the "Cavalier Review." Over the past year, Wanda has done 33 news features and segments on the Dorman FFA Chapter. *(C. Gerald Moore, Advisor)* •••

FFA in the Parks

The Student Conservation Association offers unique opportunities each year for high school and college students and other persons who are out of school, to participate in the work of agencies responsible for the care and management of America's public lands.

During the 1985 program season, 19 Future Farmers participated in SCA high school work groups across the country.

Participants from FFA were Gene Deidrich, Lind, Washington, Rocky Mountain National Park; Karla Horner, Liberty Center, Ohio, North Cascades National Park; Thomas Kilian, Cary, North Carolina, Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Shawn Kimble, Spotsylvania, Virginia, Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; Kris Knegeris, Poulsbo, Washington, Olympic National Park; Erik Landgraf, Winsted, Connecticut, Lassen Volcanic National Park; Brent Laughon, Moneta, Virginia, Big Bend National Park; Molly Lord, Crossville, Tennessee, Big Bend National Park; Jennifer Mayer, Middleburg, Ohio, German Exchange Program; Mary McFarland, Fredericksburg, Iowa, Zion National Park; Allen McGrady, Hillsville, Virginia, New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation; Kenneth Meckle, Brattleboro, Vermont, Saint Gaudens National Historic Site; James Meyer, Tina, Missouri, Grand Teton National Park; Andrew Moss, Plano, Texas, Saint Gaudens National Historic Site; Dee Ogden, Walla Walla, Washington, Flathead National Forest; Douglas Robison, Fillmore, Utah, Zion National Park; Sara Toyoda, Wilmington, Delaware, Great Smoky Mountains National Park; William Walker, Whiteland, In-

(Continued on Page 60)

Highway Promoters

Along Interstate 80 as you head into Iowa from the East, you'll find a chapter demonstration plot at the I-80 rest area near Wilton, Iowa.

The FFA project, a 40-foot by 40-foot demonstration of corn and soybeans, is in its second year. The main objective of the chapter's demonstration plot is to educate the public about production ag in general and to tell them just what an acre of corn and soybeans really is—in terms of food rather than feed.

The chapter uses four methods to tell the public about Iowa's two major crops. Actual crops are there for the public to get close enough to view. Many people never get to see corn or soybeans up close, so we let them see and touch it.

A fact board next to the plot tells general farming facts, facts about corn and soybeans and cost comparisons of food in the USA, China and the USSR.

Information bulletins are handed out in the Tourist Information Booth in the rest area and on "busy" weekends members visit with the public and tell them the story of agriculture.

The project is done in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Iowa Development Commission, the Iowa Corn Promotion Board and the Iowa Soybean Association. *(Gary R. Bruns, Advisor)* •••

FFA members, left to right, Brian Write, Andy Brown and Mark Thede get instructions from Advisor Bruns on the development of the soybean pod. FFA members meet with tourists during the summer and explain the growth and uses of soybeans and corn.

FFA Advisor Bruns and FFA member Andy Brown (on right) point out a few farm facts to the James Stolleis family from Springfield, Illinois. The farm fact board points out general farm facts, corn and soybean facts and cost comparisons of food in the USA, China and the USSR.

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diana, Carlsbad Caverns National Park; and David Wark, Marietta, Ohio, Merck Forest. •••

Team Meeting

The Scottsboro, Alabama, Chapter FFA officers met Alabama Governor George C. Wallace at their state FFA convention. *(John Wesley Knight, Reporter)* •••

Memorial Honors

In Galena, Missouri, a memorial was erected in memory of Anthony Mark Ellingsworth, Galena FFA president. Anthony was killed during his term as president of the chapter.

A memorial plaque is at the base of a three-flag memorial. The flags are lighted and flown 24 hours daily.

The U.S. flag was flown over the White House in Washington, D.C., and donated by Congressman Gene Taylor. The Missouri flag was donated by State Representative Doyle Childers and Larry Baker. *(Hubert Melton, Advisor)* •••

A Chapter at 50

Like many other chapters in the nation who have already reached their 50-year mark, we have finally reached ours in Bryan, Texas.

Each year we have an end-of-the-year banquet and this year was the best ever. Instead of our school cafeteria or gym, we were able to rent the Brazos Center. The food was made and served by the parents, alumni members and friends of the FFA.

As the final hour drew near before the banquet, everybody was about their different tasks. Teachers, parents and members were bringing in scrapbooks, yearbooks and pictures from the past years. These were to be set up on our display center. There were flower arrangements of blue and yellow being put on every table. The 1984-85 officers were busy running through the dialogue of the meeting and making sure they had all of the awards. The movie camera was being set up by Alan Field.

This year's banquet was in honor of our past presidents, sweethearts, American and Honorary Chapter Farmers. We also honored our outstanding agriculture students, past and present vocational agriculture teachers, and Lone Star and Honorary Lone Star degree recipients.

All honorees were awarded with a "limited edition" medallion featuring a design prepared by the local chapter.

Vocational agriculture was first taught in Bryan in 1928, but the Bryan Chapter received its first charter from the national FFA organization in 1935. Membership in the chapter has grown steadily

A 1943 Field trip for Bryan, Texas, members.

This 1943 scene shows Bryan, Texas, members digging up school ground for a Victory Garden—to do their part for the war effort.

over the years, peaking at around 265 students in the mid 70s, making it the third largest chapter in the state at that time. The chapter now has 204 members.

This year's banquet was a big success. We had a turnout of about 500 parents, members and guests. It was a real honor

Current Bryan Chapter officers are, front row, left to right, Melissa Kaye Hein, treasurer; Georgie Kenney, sweetheart; and Jennifer Kempenski, secretary. Back row, left to right, are Jeff Peters, reporter; Kevin Rasberry, president; Sherry Potts, vice president; and Lane Cross, secretary.

to meet some of the former officers and learn of their achievements they have made in their lives with the knowledge that was provided them through FFA.

This year we had a few surprise announcements. Mr. Frank Metzer, head of the ag department, and his wife donated a plaque in the shape of Texas with all the Lone Star Farmers' names on it. The plaque was donated in memory of their son Kirk Allen Metzer. Another surprise announcement was a donation of five acres of land in Tabor. This was given to the Bryan Chapter by a supporter and Honorary Lone Star Farmer of the FFA, Mrs. Bobbie Butler. These are just a few of the special features from our 50th anniversary banquet. *(Loretta Lynn Peters, Reporter)* •••

Planning Model

The new Coe-Brown Northwood, New Hampshire, Academy FFA Chapter officers met in July for the annual officers' training workshop to learn about their duties and responsibilities as chapter officers and to outline future activities.

The officers met in the Coe-Brown library with an official opening ceremony followed by an impromptu speech by chapter President Dan Mooers on "The Duties of an Officer."

They then outlined a program of activities for the chapter for the 1985-86 school year. Some of the proposed activities include: the Deerfield fair petting zoo, the annual citrus sale and community development.

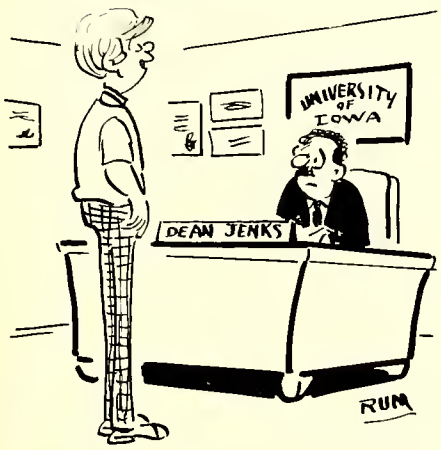
The members attending were President Dan Mooers, Vice President Rob Thurber, Secretary Lori Robinson, Reporter David Black, Sentinel Ron Chase and Advisors Bruce Farr and Paul Davis, Jr. *(David Black, Reporter)* •••

Leadership Can Be Fun

The Mansfield, Texas, FFA Chapter officer leadership camp was held in June at the Area V FFA Camp at Lake Texoma.

The first afternoon the officers discussed goal setting. Our guest was Jay Hayes, state officer for our area. He

(Continued on Page 62)



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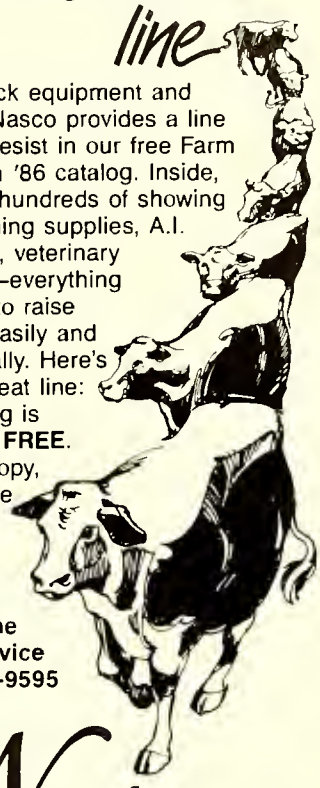

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FFA in Action

(Pick Up ACTION from Page 61)

discussed how important it was to be an officer team instead of working as individuals.

The next evening we had the film "Be All You Can Dream."

Before leaving the next morning, the officers discussed doing their jobs the very best this year, parliamentary procedure and the activities for the 50th anniversary of the chapter.

Time was spent each day swimming and skiing, playing volleyball and other fun games. One officer said "We learned a lot about each other and about leadership and had a lot of fun doing it!" *(From the* Mansfield FFA News*)* •••

Bringing an Apple Orchard Back to Life

The FFA members at Elkhorn, Wisconsin, have taken over their county apple orchard which was given to them as a gift. It was presented to them for learning purposes.

"It all began when the University-Wisconsin Extension county agent called in behalf of the county board members," said Erv Flesch, the vo-ag instructor and FFA advisor. "He asked if my FFA members and I would like to take over the care of the orchard. It had become diseased and insect invested. It would be destroyed if we refused to restore it to healthy production."

Flesch realized it would prove an excellent learning experience for the FFA members, so he agreed to take over its management with the FFA members.

"The county board volunteered $500 a year," said Flesch. "This sum would be put toward the use of spray chemicals and other materials needed. Any other expenses encountered would have to be taken from our FFA fund."

Members have learned to use chemicals to control damage to the fruit in their orchard.

Each year members add new trees to the orchard. Left to right are Jon Reed, Brian Vance, Advisor Flesch, Chris Rieker and Terry Probst.

When Flesch and his FFA members went out to examine the apple trees, they were unable to identify some of the apple varieties. That fall, they sent three mature apples from each tree to Elden Stang, pomologist, at the University of Wisconsin Extension.

"He was surprised that we had some real old varieties in the orchard," said Jon Reed, FFA member. "He encouraged us to take good care of them, if they were productive trees. Many orchards aren't planting them any more, as they take too long to produce. He said they were popular with the public."

The FFA members are proud to have old apple varieties like the Wolf River, Gold Russet and Snow apples. Other varieties are the Red Delicious, McIntosh, Cortland and Transparents.

The FFA members went to work that first spring with pruning shears and saws. They cut out the suckers, branches that criss-crossed and any dead wood.

"Each year we strive to cut out more wood in the center of the trees," said Flesch. "We can cut only one big branch from the tree a year, otherwise, the tree will expereience too much shock and stress. Many folks don't realize this fact."

The FFA members have learned to mix sprays and spray the trees throughout the year for insects and disease.

Last year, they sold 180 bushels and made a total of $900. The apple profits are put into the FFA fund where all the members share its use. They use this money to help finance student field trips.

"The FFA members are picking up a lot of valuable experience by actually working in the apple orchard," said Flesch. "Every year we are purchasing different young dwarf trees and setting them out. It's a project that will snowball each year. Caring for the apple orchard is proving a valuable learning experience for the FFA members." *(Wally E. Schulz)* •••

McClarren

(Continued from Page 15)

"When you get a lot of activities going on, it's easy to generate new ideas and it perpetuates goals because you see one thing get done and then you see the next step that needs to be taken."

That frenetic pace followed Brian throughout high school. Public speaking, creed contest, soils, meat and livestock judging — all were vigorously pursued in FFA. His many awards and honors are a testament to his skill and versatility.

Life hasn't always gone his way, however. Brian ran for state FFA office his junior year — and lost.

"I think he felt badly about not becoming state officer," remembers his advisor. "But we had talked about that trade-off early on before going into it.

Brian had set goals — and *alternatives.* "That's really when his project took off," says Jim. Never one to put all his eggs in one basket, Brian's diversified approach to living left him options. He now concentrated fully on building his SOEP.

One of the toughest decisions for Brian was deciding to enroll at far away Colorado State University to major in animal science. Being 1,300 miles from home meant scaling his rented operation way back.

Putting It In Perspective

Brian McClarren is a young man who is not afraid to take a little guided risk. He has imagination, foresight and a determination that is unwavering. Best of all, he likes what he does.

"It's really interesting and pleasing to me to carry a project clear through," he muses. "I guess it's a privilege for me to raise livestock, and if I can make a little money along the way, that's just the sugar on top.

He knows how far he's come. He also realizes that it's something any beginning freshman could do, with a little imagination.

"Dream a little bit," he says. "Look and see how far you could go in four years. I think if you work hard, you can actually accomplish quite a bit, more than you may think you can at this point."

Brian McClarren should know. •••

American Advantage

(Continued from Page 46)

in agricultural production because of this disadvantage.

Add to this the Soviet's vast areas of soils that are not suitable for crops. Except for the rich soil in the Ukrainian region, the rest of the Soviet Union is largely the acidic podzolic variety similar to that in northern Minnesota and Michigan.

Like the U.S. farmer, the Soviets try to farm marginal lands. These marginal lands require crops suitable to the climate and soil and also require heavy amounts of fertilizer and irrigation. Western Nebraska and Kansas farmers know this and we only need to read history books about our dust bowl period in the 1930's to know that drought can bring disastrous results.

Soviet climate and type of land also influence their use of livestock. The U.S. specializes in cattle production where three-fourths of the cattle are raised for beef, while the Soviet cattle are raised for the dual purpose of beef and milk. Even though the U.S. has one-third more cattle, Russia produces half again as much milk and three times as much butter.

Russia's largest employer is agriculture and half of the work force is women. Since 1953, they have increased their livestock and poultry production and because of this and an increasing population, have also had to raise more grain. Poor weather conditions have caused low yields, so they have been a net importer since 1972. Because of the importance of agriculture, many students are encourged to become agronomists.

Soviet students go to school for nine months, beginning September first, and are required to attend until they are seventeen. To a future Soviet farmer, higher education is a prized goal. A college education in one of the agricultural fields is free and the student receives a small monthly allowance for expenses. Most work in the summer for additional income, many of them on farms for on-the-job training. These schools are co-educational and in order for an agriculture specialist to be promoted, he must have graduated from one of the universities.

The Soviet and the U.S. farmer share many of the same qualities. Both work hard to produce crops and raise livestock, and both take a great deal of pride in their ability to achieve a common goal. While the majority of Soviet agriculture is in a state farm system where each farm is over 16,000 acres, Soviet authorities have begun to encourage individual farmers to cultivate private plots. These plots are a half acre or less, similar to a large garden in the U.S. Soviet farmers care for these plots in their spare time and have done so well they produce between one-third and one-half of all the vegetables, eggs, milk and wool sold in the market. Soviet authorities are improving incentives by increasing the availability of fertilizers and pesticides and by providing more machinery and irrigation. This proves that farmers are basically the same world wide; if they're given the opportunity, they'll find a way to improve and produce more for the consumer. •••

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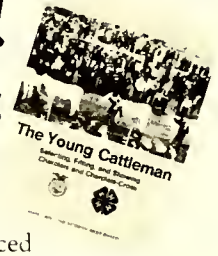

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The Joke Page

There was a hunter who was bragging about his Labrador Retriever. Some of his friends asked to borrow it and see just how good it was. When the hunters got back they said they were sorry but they had to kill the dog because it went crazy. The friends explained, *"We went to the first pond, the dog went down to the pond, came back and barked four times. So we went down to the pond and killed four ducks. At the next pond, the dog came back and barked seven times. So we went down and killed seven ducks. At the third pond, the dog came back, picked up a stick and went crazy hitting us, so we killed him."*

The hunter said, *"You crazy fools, that dog wasn't crazy, he was telling you that there were more ducks on that pond than you could shake a stick at."*

Scott McFarlan
Cross City, Florida

"Some award. The bird watchers club voted our scarecrow the friendliest in the county."

A teacher told her young class to draw pictures of their daddies at work. She saw one youngster filling his paper with circles asked, *"What does your dad do?" "He's a doctor, he makes rounds,"* replied the child.

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

A woman's three sons went to Texas to raise beef cattle, sheep and hogs on a ranch. Unable to think of a good name for it, they sent a letter to their mother to see if she had any ideas. *"Name it Focus,"* she wrote back. Puzzled, they wrote her again. When her letter came in the mail, it read *"Focus: where the sun's rays meet."*

Travis Derks
Salem, Alabama

Years ago, when the great land rush was beginning in the West, there weren't enough horses and mules to go around, and space on wagon trains and stagecoaches was at a minimum. Thus, a hard and fast rule was set: People whose posteriors measured over a certain width could not be accommodated.

In other words, there was no West for the reary.

Oliver Frazier
Rock Hall, Maryland

Teacher: *"Class, where is the North Pole located?"*
Student: *"On page 370."*

Kashundra Jones
Tyler, Texas

An Indian was telling his doctor about his chronic insomnia. To the doctor's amazement, the Indian added that 499 fellow tribesmen also had the problem. They're known as the Indiannapless 500.

Jose Salinas
Roma, Texas

Tourist to farmer: *"Pardon me, do you have a watermelon patch?"*
Farmer: *"Why, your melon leaking?"*

Jim Jordan, Jr.
Cragford, Alabama

Two farmers were complaining about their bad crops.

"I've never seen hay grow so short in my entire life," said one.

"You think your hay was short," answered the other. *"I had to lather mine to mow it."*

Brad Lenk
Silex, Missouri

A man was plowing his field with his bull. A neighbor came along and saw his brand new tractor sitting in the barn. The neighbor asked, *"Why are you using that bull to plow when you have a brand new tractor?"*

The man replied, *"I'm trying to teach him there's more to life than romance."*

J. L. Foster
Bethelridge, Kentucky

Angry customer to baker: *"I sent my little boy to your store this morning to buy two pounds of cookies. When he brought them home, I found that they weighed only one pound. I suggest you check your scales!"*

Baker: *"Madam, I suggest you weigh your little boy!"*

David Dennison
Capshaw, Alabama

Charlie, the Greenhand

"To get him up on school days, my husband wired his bed to our pop-up toaster!"

NOTICE: The National FUTURE FARMER *will pay $5.00 for each joke selected for this page. Jokes must be addressed to the National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309, or via Stargram on the Ag Ed Network to FF100A. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.*

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